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EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

TOP 10
BEIJING

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TOP 10
BEIJING

ANDREW HUMPHREYS

EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

Left **Tian'an Men** Center **Temple of Heaven** Right **Summer Palace**

LONDON, NEW YORK,
MELBOURNE, MUNICH AND DELHI
www.dk.com

Produced by Brazil Street

Reproduced by Colourscan, Singapore
Printed and bound in Italy by Graphicom

First American Edition, 2007
07 08 09 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published in the United States by
DK Publishing, Inc., 375 Hudson Street,
New York, New York 10014

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Dorling Kindersley Limited, London
A Penguin Company

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A CIP catalogue record is available from the British Library.

ISSN 1479-344X
ISBN: 978 0 75662 474 3

Within each Top 10 list in this book, no hierarchy of quality or popularity is implied. All 10 are, in the editor's opinion, of roughly equal merit.

Floors are referred to throughout in accordance with British usage: ie the "first floor" is the floor above ground level.

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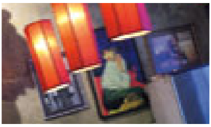

Left **Foil-baked fish, Han Cang** Center **World of Suzie Wong** Right **Mahjong players, Hou Hai**

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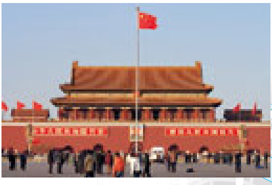
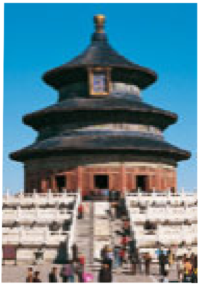
TOP 10 Beijing's Highlights

At the heart of Beijing is tradition, given physical form in the mighty Forbidden City, from where successive imperial dynasties have ruled since the 15th century. Neighboring Tian'an Men Square is the China of recent history, of red-flag socialism and Mao. But this is also a city on the move, as an all-pervading spirit of change makes Beijing the most 21st-century of capitals.

Forbidden City 1

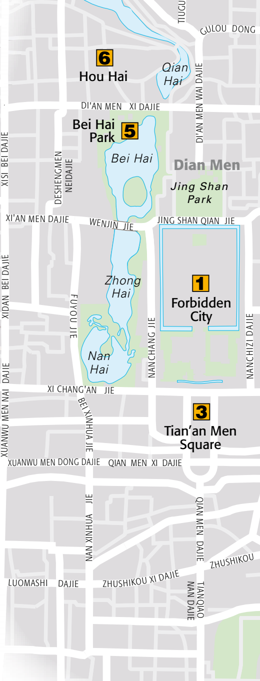
So called because at one time only members of the imperial court were allowed inside, this is one of the largest and greatest palace complexes ever built *(see pp8–11)*.

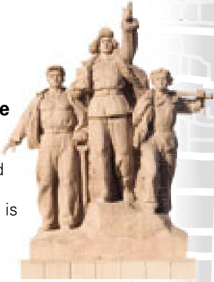




2 Temple of Heaven

Originally the venue for annual winter solstice sacrifices, which were performed by successive emperors to ensure ample harvests, the temple remains Beijing's most recognizable icon *(see pp12–13)*.


ANDING MEN XI DAJIE
GUOWANG HUTONG
TIUGULOU DAJIE
GULOU DONG
6
Hou Hai
Qian Hai
DI'AN MEN WAI DAJIE
DI'AN MEN XI DAJIE
Bei Hai Park
5
Bei Hai
Dian Men
Jing Shan Park
XISI BEI DAJIE
DESHENGMEN NEIDAJIE
XI'AN MEN DAJIE
WENJIN JIE
JING SHAN QIAN JIE
XIDAN BEI DAJIE
FUYOU JIE
Zhong Hai
1
Forbidden City
Nan Hai
NANCHANG JIE
NANCHIZI DAJIE
XUANWU MEN NAI DAJIE
XI CHANG'AN JIE
BEI XINHUA JIE
3
Tian'an Men Square
XUANWU MEN DONG DAJIE
QIAN MEN XI DAJIE
NAN XINHUA JIE
QIAN MEN DAJIE
ZHUSHIKOU
LUOMASHI DAJIE
ZHUSHIKOU XI DAJIE
TIANQIAO NAN DAJIE



3 Tian'an Men Square

The world's largest public square is not pretty, but it is surrounded by august cultural and political institutions, and it is also the final resting place of Chairman Mao Zedong *(see pp14–15)*.

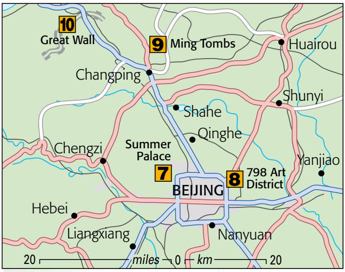
4 Lama Temple

The largest and most spectacular of the city's temples is a working lamasery, home to monks from Mongolia and Tibet *(see pp16–17)*.

Bei Hai Park 5

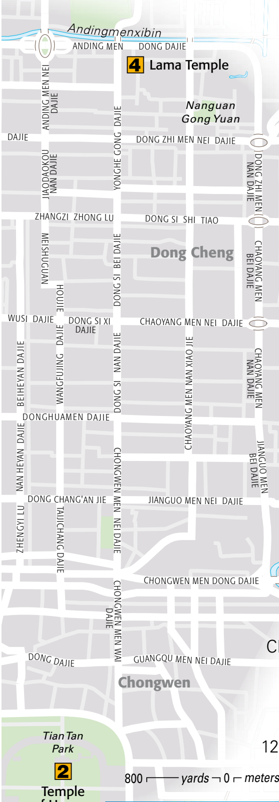
The most beautiful of Beijing's many city parks is laid out around a central lake, first dug out in the 12th century, with the excavated earth used to create a central island. The famed Kublai Khan ruled his empire from a palace here *(see pp18–19)*.

Previous pages **Red flags flying on Tian'an Men Square**


10
Great Wall
9
Ming Tombs
Huairou
Changping
Shunyi
Shahe
Qinghe
Chengzi
Summer Palace
7
Yanjiao
798 Art District
8
BEIJING
Hebei
Liangxiang
Nanyuan
20 miles 0 km 20

6 Hou Hai

By day visitors take rickshaw tours around the back lanes for a glimpse of fast-disappearing old Beijing; by night, attention shifts to the area's lakeside bars and restaurants *(see pp20–21)*.


Andingmenxibin
ANDING MEN
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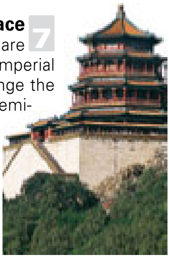
4
Lama Temple
Nanguan Gong Yuan
ANDING MEN NEI DAJIE
DAJIE
DONG ZHI MEN NEI DAJIE
YONGHE GONG DAJIE
JIAODAOKOU NAN DAJIE
DONG ZHI MEN NAN DAJIE
ZHANGZI ZHONG LU
DONG SI SHI TIAO
MEISHUGUAN
DONG SI BEI DAJIE
Dong Cheng
CHAOYANG MEN BEI DAJIE
HOUJIE
WUSI DAJIE
DONG SI XI DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN NEI DAJIE
BEIHEYAN DAJIE
WANGFUJING DAJIE
DONG SI NAN DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN NAN XIAO JIE
CHAOYANG MEN NAN DAJIE
DONGHUAMEN DAJIE
NAN HEYAN DAJIE
CHONGWEN MEN NEI DAJIE
JIANGUO MEN BEI DAJIE
DONG CHANG'AN JIE
JIANGUO MEN NEI DAJIE
ZHENGYI LU
TAIJICHANG DAJIE
CHONGWEN MEN DONG DAJIE
CHONGWEN MEN WAI DAJIE
DONG DAJIE
GUANGQU MEN NEI DAJIE
Chongwen
Tian Tan Park
2
Temple of Heaven
800 yards 0 meters 800



Summer Palace 7

Beijing summers are unbearably hot, so the imperial court would exchange the Forbidden City for this semi-rural retreat with its ornate pavilions, gardens, and temples, ranged around the cool expanse of Kunming Lake *(see pp22–3)*.

8 798 Art District

When former electronic components factory 798 became a venue for cutting-edge contemporary art it kick-started a neighborhood trend for converting industrial spaces into galleries and chic cafés and bars *(see pp24–5)*.

Ming Tombs 9

Thirty miles (45 km) northwest of Beijing is the vast burial site of 13 of China's 16 Ming emperors. One of the underground tombs can be visited but most impressive of all is the Sacred Way, with its 12 pairs of stone guardians *(see pp26–7)*.

10 Great Wall

"Great" is something of an understatement; the wall is nothing less than spectacular. Clamber up the perilously sloping carriageways to one of the crowning watchtowers and the experience is also quite literally breath-taking *(see pp28–9)*.

TOP 10 Forbidden City

Officially known as the Palace Museum, this magnificent complex is a grand monument to the 24 emperors who ruled from its halls over a period of almost 500 years. The symbolic center of the Chinese universe, the palace was the exclusive domain of the imperial court from its completion in 1420 until the last of the emperors was forced to abdicate at the beginning of the 20th century. The modern world intruded in 1949, when the public were finally admitted through the palace gates.

Bronze guardian lion

Glazed panel with lotus and mandarin ducks

The Forbidden City has its own branch of Starbucks.

Most visitors buy their entrance tickets at the Meridian Gate, but to avoid the lengthy queues you could enter the Forbidden City from the north via the Gate of Divine Prowess, and visit in reverse.

North of Tian'an Men Square
- *Map L3*
- *6513 2255*
- *Subway: Tian'an Men Xi or Tian'an Men Dong*
- *Open: Apr 16–Oct 15 8:30am–5pm daily. Oct 16–Apr 15 8:30am–4:30pm daily*
- *Admission: Apr 1–Oct 31 ¥60. Nov 1–Mar 31 ¥40. There are additional charges for certain halls*
- *Audio guides are available for ¥40*
- *www.dpm.org.cn*

Top 10 Features

1. Meridian Gate
2. Golden Water
3. Gate of Supreme Harmony
4. Hall of Supreme Harmony
5. Hall of Preserving Harmony
6. Gate of Heavenly Purity
7. Inner Court
8. Imperial Garden
9. Western Palaces
10. Eastern Palaces

1 Meridian Gate

In Chinese it is the Wu Men. This is the traditional entrance to the palaces. From the balcony *(above)* the emperor would review his armies and perform ceremonies marking the start of the new lunar year.

2 Golden Water

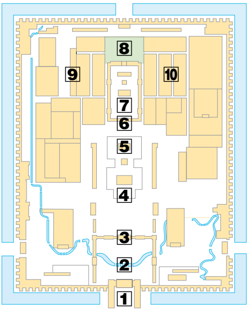
Five marble bridges, symbolizing the five cardinal virtues of Confucianism, span the Golden Water, which flows from west to east in a course designed to resemble the jade belt worn by the court officials.

3 Gate of Supreme Harmony

The fourth and final great gate *(below)* gives access into the Outer Court, the heart of the Forbidden City. The gate is guarded by two large bronze lions, classic imperial symbols of power and dignity. The lion on the right *(top)* is the male; the one on the left with a cub under its foot is the female.

4 Hall of Supreme Harmony

Raised on a triple tier of marble terraces, this largest of halls houses a sandalwood throne *(right)*, used in the coronations of 24 emperors.



5 Hall of Preserving Harmony

The most spectacular aspect of this hall is the great carved ramp on the north side, sculpted with dragons and clouds, and made from a single piece of marble weighing more than 200 tons.

6 Gate of Heavenly Purity

The only building *(above)* in the whole palace not to have been burnt down at least once, and thus the oldest hall of all. It is the boundary between the Outer Court (official) and Inner Court (private).

7 Inner Court

The Inner Court *(left)* is more intimate than the formal Outer Court, because this is where the emperor, empress, and the many concubines actually lived.

9 Western Palaces

Much of the western flank of the complex is off limits, but some of the halls neighboring the Inner Court are visitable, including the Palace of Eternal Spring, where *trompe-l'oeil* paintings at the ends of passageways make them appear infinitely extended.

10 Eastern Palaces

East of the Inner Court are smaller halls where the emperor's harem lived. Also here is the well down which the Empress Cixi *(see p23)* had her nephew's favorite concubine thrown.

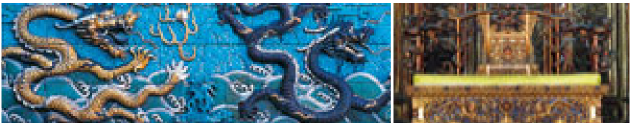
8 Imperial Garden

The emperor Qianlong wrote that, "Every ruler, when he has finished his public duties, must have a garden in which he can stroll, and relax his heart." This formal garden, the oldest in the Forbidden City, has two beautiful pavilions *(above)*.

The Last Emperor

Pu Yi, ascended the throne at the age of three in 1908, but his brief reign was brought to an end in 1912 by a new Republican government. The young ex-emperor continued to live in the Forbidden City until ejected in 1924. He was later imprisoned under the Communists, until Mao granted him amnesty in 1959. He died in 1967, after working for seven years as a gardener.

For more places of interest in the vicinity of the Forbidden City **See pp66–9**

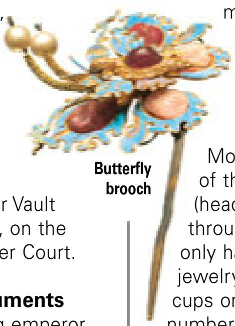


Left **Nine-dragon screen** Right **Imperial throne**

Forbidden City Collections

1 **Musical instruments**

In true imperial fashion, the more lavish the musical entertainment, the more glory it reflected on the emperor. Court musicians used gongs of all sizes and *guqins* (zithers), wooden flutes, and heavy bronze bells adorned with dragons, as well as the unusual *sheng*, a Sherlock Holmes-style pipe with reeds of different lengths sprouting from the top. The collection is displayed in the Silver Vault of the Imperial Palace, on the west side of the Outer Court.



Butterfly brooch

2 **Scientific instruments**

Enlightened Qing emperor Kangxi (1654–1722) appointed Europeans as court officials, and instructed his imperial workshops to copy Western scientific instruments. These included the first calculator, astronomical and drawing tools, sun dials, moon dials, and a special table with measurements and scientific notations scratched on each side leaf, made especially for the imperial studies. The instruments are part of the Imperial Treasures of the Ming and Qing Dynasties exhibit, on the west side of the Inner Court.

3 **Stone drums**

The Hall of Moral Cultivation holds the palace's collection of stone drums. These are enormous tom-tom shaped rocks that bear China's earliest stone inscriptions dating back to 374 BC. These ideographic carvings are arranged in four-character poems, which commemorate the glorious pastureland and successful animal husbandry made possible by the Emperor Xiangong's benevolence.

4 **Jewelry**

Also in the Hall of Moral Cultivation are three of the six halls of jewelry (head north for rooms four through six), including the only hall to display actual jewelry rather than agate cups or jade sculpture. Hall number three has thick jade rings, lapis lazuli court beads, elaborate headdresses made of gold filigree phoenixes, and surprisingly, jadeite Christian rosary beads.

5 **Beijing Opera**

The pleasantly named Pavilion of Cheerful Melodies sports a three-story stage large enough to accommodate one thousand actors. It was once rigged with pulleys and trapdoors to create dramatic entrances for supernatural characters. The exhibits include a behind-the-scenes model stage, as well as costumes, instruments, scripts, and cast lists. There are screens showing reconstructions of old court performances.

6 Jade

The Hall of Quintessence was once where dowager empresses went to die; it now exhibits jade artifacts spanning thousands of years. Pieces range from simple cups and ladles to enormous and intricate sculptures of Buddhas in traditional scenic settings. The Chinese considered working this "hard" stone a metaphor for character development and the pursuit of perfection.

7 Daily life of the concubines

Every three years, court officials would select girls between the ages of 13 and 17 to join the eight ranks of imperial concubines. The Yonghe Pavilion exhibits clothing, games, herbal medicine, and a food distribution chart relating to the young imperial consorts, as well as the all-important "wedding night bed," which is covered in a richly embroidered red silk decorated with Chinese mythological symbols.

Imperial wedding bed

8 Clocks and watches

Arguably the finest of the many and varied palace collections, the clocks and watches fill the Fengxian Pavilion in the southeastern corner of the eastern Inner Court. The size and creativity involved in some of the pieces – which are primarily European – is astonishing. One particularly inventive model has an automaton clad in European dress frantically writing eight Chinese characters on a scroll, which is being unrolled by two other mechanical figures.

Ornate carriage clock

9 Ceramics

In a ceramic salute to the Silk Road, several linked halls around the Inner Court display tomb figurines from the Sui (581–618) and Tang (618–906) dynasties. Still caked with earth, statues range from six inches to three feet (15 cm to 1m) in height, and depict overweight court ladies, Buddhas on elephants, and floppy-humped camels. A film offers some background on the pottery finds.

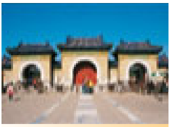
10 Empress Cixi

The Xianfu Pavilion is a memorial to the Empress Cixi's devious rise to power *(see p23)*, as well as to the great lady's imperial extravagances, which so nearly crippled her country. Clothes, jewelry, embroidered socks, imported perfume, jade and ivory chopsticks, and pictures of clothes and food form the bulk of the exhibits. There are also examples of the empress's calligraphic skills in the form of painted wall hangings.

For more Beijing museums **See pp42–3**

TOP 10 Temple of Heaven

It was here that the emperor would make sacrifices and pray to heaven and his ancestors at the winter solstice. As the Son of Heaven, the emperor could intercede with the gods on behalf of his people and pray for a good harvest. Off-limits to the common people during the Ming and Qing dynasties, the temple complex is now fully open to the public and attracts thousands of visitors daily, including many local Chinese who come to enjoy the large and pleasant park in which the monuments are set.



Triple gate for emperor, officials, and gods

There are several small snack kiosks in the park grounds.

Just as fascinating as exploring the temple is observing the great numbers of Chinese who come to the park to dance, exercise, sing opera, play games of cards and mahjong, and fly kites.

Tian Tan Dong Lu (East Gate), Chongwen
- *Map F6*
- *6702 2617*
- *Subway: Chongwen Men or Qian Men*
- *Park open: 8am–6pm daily. Temple open: 8am–5pm*
- *Admission to temple: ¥30. Park free*

Top 10 Features

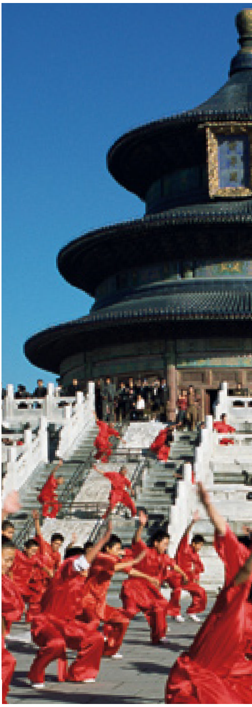
1. Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests
2. Painted Caisson Ceiling
3. Marble Platform
4. Red Step Bridge
5. Imperial Vault of Heaven
6. Echo Wall
7. Echo Stones
8. Round Altar
9. Hall of Abstinence
10. Temple of Heaven Park

1 Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests

Built in 1420, then rebuilt in 1889, this circular tower, with a conical roof of blue tiles and a gold finial, is the most beautiful building in Beijing *(right)*. One of the most striking facts about it is that it was constructed without the use of a single nail.

2 Painted Caisson Ceiling

The circular ceiling of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests has a gilded dragon and phoenix at its center *(below)*. The wood for the four central columns was imported from Oregon, as at the time China had no trees tall enough.



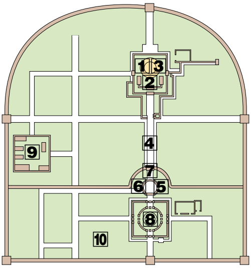
3 Marble Platform

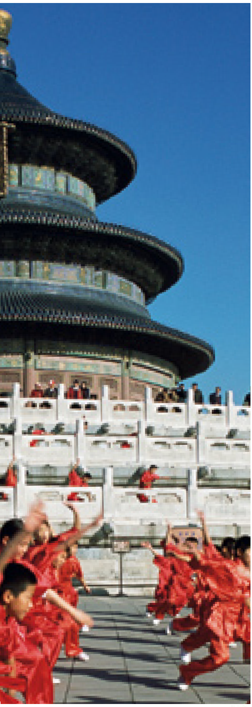
The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests sits atop three tiers of marble that form a circle 300 ft (90 m) in diameter and 20 ft (6 m) high *(above)*. The balusters on the upper tier are decorated with intricate dragon carvings that serve to signify the imperial nature of the structure.

For more on popular Chinese park activities **See pp36–7**

4 Red Step Bridge

A raised walkway of marble and stone that runs exactly along the north-south axis of the temple complex, the Red Step Bridge *(left)* connects the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests with the Round Altar.





5 Imperial Vault of Heaven

A circular hall made of wood and capped by a conical roof, the Imperial Vault *(below)* once held the wooden spirit tablets that were used in the ceremonies that took place on the nearby Round Altar.

6 Echo Wall

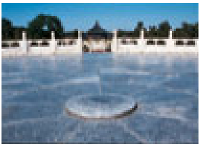
The Imperial Vault is enclosed by the circular Echo Wall, which has the same sonic effects found in some European cathedrals, where even a whisper travels round to a listener on the other side.

7 Echo Stones

There are three rectangular stones at the foot of the staircase leading up to the Imperial Vault: stand on the first and clap to hear one echo; stand on the second stone and clap once for two echoes; clap once on the third for three echoes.

8 Round Altar

The altar is formed of marble slabs laid in nine concentric circles with each circle containing a multiple of nine pieces. The center of the altar *(right)* represents the center of the world and it is where the emperor carried out sacrifices.



9 Hall of Abstinence

A red-walled, compound surrounded by a moat spanned by decorative bridges, the Hall of Abstinence resembles a mini Forbidden City. This is where the emperor would spend the last 24 hours of his three-day fast prior to partaking in the Temple of Heaven ceremonies.

10 Temple of Heaven Park

Today, locals, inured both to the splendor of the buildings and to the crowds of tourists, use the extensive grounds to practice *tai ji quan (right)*, and other martial arts, and to exercise.

Tian Tan

The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, or Qinian Dian, which is the iconic structure at the heart of the complex, is often incorrectly called the Temple of Heaven. There is, in fact, no single temple building and the name, which in Chinese is Tian Tan – a more literal translation of which is Altar of Heaven – refers to the whole complex.

There are also ceremonial sacrificial altars at Zhong Shan, Di Tan, and Ri Tan Parks **See p69, p81 & p87**

TOP 10 Tian'an Men Square

Tian'an Men Guangchang (the Square of the Gate of Heavenly Peace) is not one of the world's most attractive public plazas. It also has unfortunate associations with death, in the physical form of Mao's Mausoleum and in the memories of the bloody climax of 1989's pro-democracy demonstrations. But it has witnessed triumphant events too, including the founding of the People's Republic of China, and it remains central to modern life in Beijing, surrounded by important national institutions and filled daily with visitors and kite flyers.

Mao's portrait still hangs from Tian'an Men

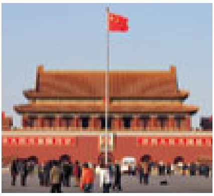
Cafés and restaurants ring the square, but there are better places a short walk south of Qian Men.

Mao's Mausoleum is best visited in the morning to avoid the afternoon queues.

Tian'an Men Square
- *Map L5*
- *Subway: Tian'an Men Xi, Tian'an Men Dong, or Qian Men*
- *China National Museum: 6512 8901. Open: Jul, Aug 8am–6pm daily. Sep–Jun 9am–4pm daily. Last admission 1 hr before closing. Admission: ¥30*
- *Mao's Mausoleum: 6513 2277. Open 8am–11.30am Tue–Sun. Free*
- *Qian Men: 6522 9382. Open 8:30am–4pm daily. Admission: ¥20*
- *Tian'an Men: 6524 3322. Open 8:30am–4:30pm daily. Admission: ¥10*

Top 10 Features

1. Tian'an Men
2. China National Museum
3. Mao's Mausoleum
4. Great Hall of the People
5. Monument to the Heroes
6. Qian Men
7. Arrow Tower
8. National Flag
9. Qian Men Old Railway Station
10. Bicycles



1 Tian'an Men

Mao proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949 from this massive Ming-dynasty gate *(above)*, where his huge portrait still hangs. The way to the Forbidden City is through here.

2 China National Museum

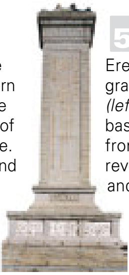
This brutal 1959 building on the eastern side of the square *(right)* combines the Museum of Chinese History and the Museum of the Revolution. Exhibits include stunning Chinese artistic masterpieces, as well as less impressive pieces of propaganda.

3 Mao's Mausoleum

In an imposing hall at the center of the square *(above)* lies the embalmed body of Mao, who died in 1976. Encased in a crystal casket and draped in a red flag, he is raised from his refrigerated chamber for twice-daily public viewings.

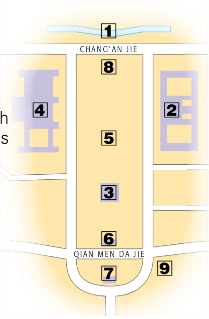
4 Great Hall of the People

A monolithic structure dominating the western side of the square, the Great Hall is the seat of the Chinese legislature. The vast auditorium and banqueting halls are open for part of every day except when the People's Congress is in session.



5 Monument to the Heroes

Erected in 1958, the granite monument *(left)* is decorated with bas-reliefs of episodes from the nation's revolutionary history and calligraphy from Communist veterans Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai.



6 Qian Men

The "Front Gate", also known as Zhengyang Men ("Sun-facing Gate"), was constructed during the Ming dynasty and was the largest of the nine gates of the inner city wall. It now houses a city history museum.

7 Arrow Tower

With the Qian Men, the Arrow Gate *(above)* formed part of a great double gate. The walls that once flanked the gate were demolished in the 20th century.

8 National Flag

At the northern end of the square is a towering pole, from which flies the Chinese flag; a troop of People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers raises the flag each day at dawn and lowers it again at sunset.

9 Qian Men Old Railway Station

The stripy building on the square's southeast corner is a British-built railway station. It now houses shops, an internet café, a branch of McDonald's, and a theater where performances of Beijing Opera take place.

10 Bicycles

Although car ownership in Beijing continues to rise dramatically, for the moment at least the bicycle remains the quintessentially Chinese way of getting around. Cyclists still crowd the wide avenues that ring Tian'an Men Square.

City Walls

There were earlier defenses but it was during the Ming era (1368–1644) that the walls took on their recognizable shape of an outer wall with seven gates, and an inner wall with nine gates. Tragically, almost all was demolished in the 1950s and 1960s to make way for roads. The gates are remembered only in the names of the subway stations on the Second Ring Road.

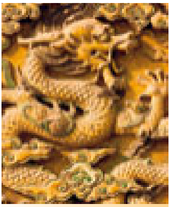
For a look at the Tian'an Men area as it used to be, visit the Imperial City Museum **See p68**

TOP 10 Lama Temple

Beijing's most spectacular place of worship is also the most famous Buddhist temple outside of Tibet. It has five main halls, each taller than the last, as well as some stunning statuary. The path through the Lama Temple proceeds from south to north – from earth to heaven.

1 Monks

At one time there were 1,500 monks at the temple, now there are only 70. Although of the same Yellow Hat sect as the Dalai Lama the monks are required to reject Tibetan independence.



Imperial dragon decoration

There are no refreshments available within the temple precincts, so if it's a hot day then remember to bring along your own bottle of water.

Photography is not allowed within the halls but you can take pictures of the exteriors and of the courtyards.

28 Yonghe Gong Dajie
- *Map F1*
- *6404 4499*
- *Subway: Yonghe Gong*
- *Open: Apr–Oct 9am–4.30pm daily. Nov–Mar 9am–4pm daily*
- *Admission: ¥25*
- *Audio guides are available for ¥20*

Top 10 Features

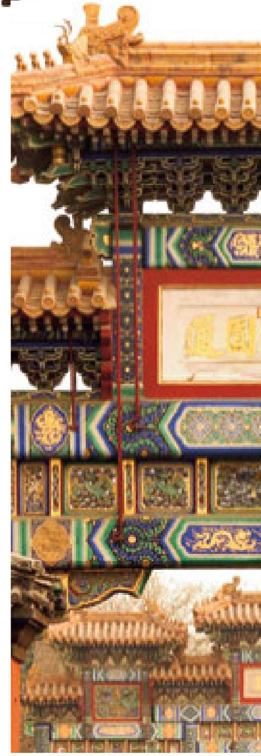
1. Monks
2. Drum and Bell Towers
3. Hall of the Heavenly Kings
4. Hall of Eternal Harmony
5. Hall of Eternal Protection
6. Hall of the Wheel of Dharma
7. Hall of Ten Thousand Happinesses
8. Prayer Wheel
9. Incense Burner
10. Lion Statue

2 Drum and Bell Towers

The temple's Drum and Bell towers are in the first courtyard after passing through the main entrance. The huge bell has been removed from its tower and placed on the ground.

3 Hall of the Heavenly Kings

The first hall has a plump laughing Buddha, Milefo, back-to-back with Wei Tuo, the Guardian of Buddhist Doctrine. They are flanked by the Four Heavenly Kings.

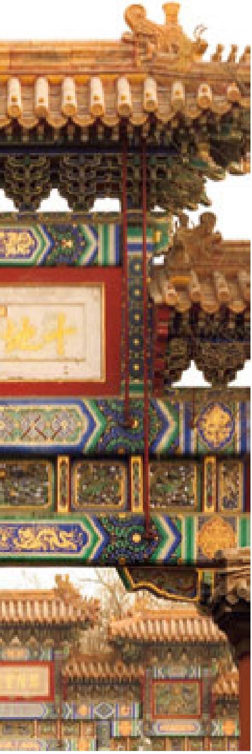


4 Hall of Eternal Harmony

This, the second hall *(left)*, contains three manifestations of Buddha. These represent the past, present, and future, and are flanked by 18 *luohan* – those freed from the cycle of rebirth.

5 Hall of Eternal Protection

The third hall contains Buddhas of longevity and medicine. It also has two famous *tangkas*, said to have been embroidered by Emperor Qianlong's mother. Behind the hall is a bronze sculpture of Mount Meru, the center of the Buddhist universe.



10 Lion Statue

A large imperial lion *(right)* is a reminder that the complex was originally the residence of the man who would become Qing emperor Yongzheng. On ascending the throne in 1722, and in keeping with tradition, his former home became a temple.

6 Hall of the Wheel of Dharma

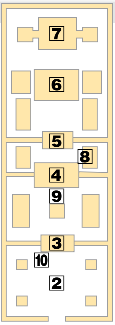
Hall four has a 20-foot (6-m) high statue of Tsongkhapa, the 14th-century founder of the Yellow Hat sect of Buddhism. Dominant in Tibetan politics for centuries, the sect is led by the Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama.

8 Prayer Wheel

Spinning a prayer wheel *(right)* sends a prayer written on coiled paper to heaven. A little yellow arrow taped to the frame of the wheel reminds worshipers which direction (clockwise) to spin the wheel.

9 Incense Burner

There are incense burners in front of all the many altars throughout the temple. Shops lining the entryway to the complex and in the neighboring streets are piled with bundles of incense sticks for sale for use at the temple.



7 Hall of Ten Thousand Happinesses

The final pavilion *(left)* houses an 80-foot (25-m) high Buddha carved from a single piece of sandalwood. There's a splendid collection of Tibetan Buddhist objects in a room behind the hall.

Panchen Lama

While the Dalai Lama, head of the sect to which the Lama Temple belongs, lives in exile, the second head, the Panchen Lama, resides in Bejing. In contrast to the Dalai Lama, the Panchen recognizes Chinese authority. However, the matter of the true identity of the Panchen Lama is a matter of controversy. China supports one candidate, while the Tibetans recognize another – only he vanished in suspicious circumstances in 1995.

For more Beijing places of worship **See pp46–7**

TOP 10 Bei Hai Park

An imperial garden for more than a thousand years, Bei Hai was opened to the public in 1925. Filled with artificial hills, pavilions, and temples, it is associated with Kublai Khan, who redesigned it during the Mongol Yuan dynasty. These days, it is a fine place for a leisurely afternoon stroll, and perhaps a bit of boating on the lake.

Lakeside pavilions

Park gate

Aside from the famous Fangshan Restaurant, there are also small snack kiosks in the park.

There are four gates to the park: the most convenient is the south gate, close to the northwest corner of the Forbidden City; the north gate exits across the road from Hou Hai, where there are good eating and drinking options.

---

1 Wenjin Jie, Xicheng
- *Map K1*
- *6403 1102*
- *Subway: Tian'an Men Xi*
- *Open: Apr–Oct 6am–10pm daily. Nov–Mar 6:30am–9pm. All buildings close at 4pm year round*
- *Admission: Apr–Oct ¥10. Nov–Mar ¥5*

Top 10 Features

1. Round City
2. Jade Island
3. White Dagoba
4. Yongan Temple
5. Fangshan Restaurant
6. Pavilion of Calligraphy
7. The Place of Serenity
8. Xiao Xitian Temple
9. Nine Dragon Screen
10. Zhong Nan Hai

1 Round City

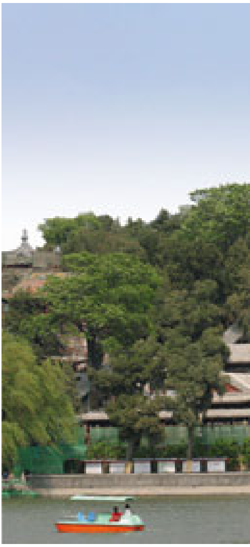
Bei Hai was the site of Beijing's earliest imperial palace, although nothing remains other than a small pavilion on a site known as the Round City, and a large jade wine vessel said to have belonged to Kublai Khan.

2 Jade Island

Accessed by bridge from the south gate or by boat from the north gate, Bei Hai's willow-lined island *(right)* was created from the earth excavated to form the lake.

3 White Dagoba

Topping Jade Island, the 118-ft (36-m) high White Dagoba is a Tibetan-style stupa built to honor the visit of the fifth Dalai Lama in 1651. It has been rebuilt twice since.



4 Yongan Temple

Beneath the Dagoba, the temple comprises a series of ascending halls, including the Hall of the Wheel of Law with its central effigy of the Buddha Sakyamuni.

5 Fangshan Restaurant

Founded in 1926 by chefs of the imperial household, the restaurant *(left)* bases its menus on court cuisine. Standards have slipped but the lakeside setting still has great appeal.

6 Pavilion of Calligraphy

A crescent-shaped hall on Jade Island contains nearly 500 stone tablets engraved with the work of famous Chinese calligraphers. If the exhibits are less than enthralling the walkways that lead to the pavilion are enchanting.

7 The Place of Serenity

In the northwest corner of the park is this beautiful garden *(left)*, created in the mid-18th century by the Qianlong emperor, with rockeries, pavilions, and ornate bridges over goldfish-filled pools.

8 Xiao Xitian Temple

Near the Place of Serenity is a trio of small temple buildings – the Pavilion of 10,000 Buddhas, the Glazed Pavilion, which is covered with green and yellow ceramic Buddhas, and the Xiao Xitian (Small Western Sky) Temple filled with fearsome-looking idols *(above)*.

9 Nine Dragon Screen

Bei Hai's most striking sight is an 89-ft (27-m) long, free-standing wall made of colorful glazed ceramic tiles and depicting nine intertwined dragons *(below)*. The Chinese dragon is a beneficent beast offering protection and good luck. The wall was designed to obstruct the passage of evil spirits, who are only able to travel in straight lines.

10 Zhong Nan Hai

Bei Hai means North Lake; the Middle (Zhong) and South (Nan) Lakes are part of an area occupied by China's political leaders and are off-limits to all except government officials. Zhong Nan Hai is regarded as the new Forbidden City.

Park play

Beijing's parks double as recreation centers, particularly for the city's elderly citizens. As soon as the parks open in the morning they gather to perform communal *tai ji quan* (tai chi) exercises. Many then spend the rest of the day in the park playing cards, dominos or mahjong, engaging in *yang ge* (fan dancing) or ballroom dancing, or simply reading the newspaper and talking with friends.

TOP 10 Hou Hai

The area around the joined lakes of Qian Hai and Hou Hai has traditionally been home to nobles and wealthy merchants. Several grand homes survive, hidden in the labyrinthine old lanes known as hutongs. *This is a rare quarter of Beijing where the 21st century is kept at bay, and these back alleys represent one of the most satisfying parts of the city to explore on foot – or by rickshaw.*

Al fresco dining at Qian Hai

Gaudy lamp shades for sale on Yandai Xie Jie

The Hou Hai area has several excellent restaurants and bars, *see pp82–3*.

Visit Hou Hai by day to explore the historic *hutongs* and historic residences, but do come back by night to dine and drink, and to see the lake glimmering with the flotilla of tea-candles that are floated out on the water each evening.

- *Map D2*
- *Subway: Gulou Dajie*
- *Mansion of Prince Gong: 6616 8149. Open: Apr–Oct 7:30am–5:30pm. Nov–Mar 8:30am–4:30pm daily. Admission: ¥20*
- *Former Residence of Guo Moruo: 6612 5984. Open 9am–4.30pm Tue–Sun. Closed Dec 25 until 5th day of Chinese New Year. Admission: ¥20*
- *Song Qingling's Residence: 6616 8149. Open 9am–5:30pm Tue–Sun. Admission: ¥20*

Top 10 Features

1. Lotus Lane
2. Boating and skating
3. Silver Ingot Bridge
4. Hutongs
5. Mansion of Prince Gong
6. Former Residence of Guo Moruo
7. Rickshaw tours
8. Song Qingling's Residence
9. Yandai Xie Jie
10. Drum and Bell Towers

1 Lotus Lane

This is the tourist-friendly name attached to the main lakeside parade of restaurants, bars, and cafés (including, inevitably, a Starbucks), many of which have attractive waterfront terraces.

2 Boating and skating

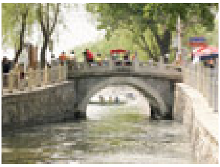
In summer the lakes are filled with small pedal boats, rented by the hour. By mid-December, they are frozen over *(above)* and a large area is corraled off for public ice-skating.

3 Silver Ingot Bridge

The narrow channel that connects Hou Hai's two lakes is spanned by the pretty, arched Silver Ingot Bridge *(right)*, which dates from the time of the Yuan dynasty (1279–1368).

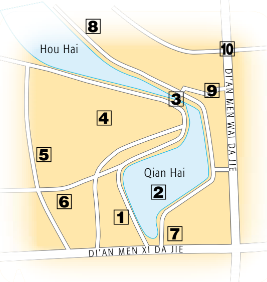
4 Hutongs

The lakes lie at the heart of a sprawling old Beijing district, characterized by the traditional alleyways known as *hutongs*. These alleyways are lined for the most part by the blank outer walls of *siheyuan*, which are inward-looking houses that are arranged around a central courtyard. Each *siheyuan* houses several families.



5 Mansion of Prince Gong

Built for a Manchu official but seized by the imperial household, the former residence of Prince Gong is the best preserved historic mansion in Beijing. The garden is a pattern of corridors and pavilions, dotted with pools and gates *(right)*.



6 Former Residence of Guo Moruo

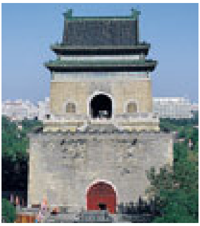
Beijing has countless "former residences of," mostly connected with Party favorites. Moruo was an author and influential figure in the rise of communism in China. His house offers the opportunity to see inside a *hutong* home.

7 Rickshaw tours

One way of seeing the *hutongs* is from a rickshaw. Prices and length of the tour are negotiable, but expect to pay around ¥180 per person for a two-hour jaunt with stop-offs at several place of interest.

Siheyuan

Traditional Beijing homes are arranged around a central courtyard. The main dwelling is on the north, with lesser halls on the other three sides. Originally homes of the well-to-do, over time many *siheyuan* were occupied by poorer families, who squeezed several households into the space formerly occupied by one. Modernization has destroyed many of these dwellings, but there is a movement to preserve those that have survived. A few have been converted into hotels *(see p116)*.



10 Drum and Bell Towers

Just north of the eastern end of Yandai Xie Jie these two imposing towers *(above)* once marked the northern-most limits of the city. You can ascend the towers for views of Hou Hai and beyond.

8 Song Qingling's Residence

Song Qingling was the wife of the revolutionary leader Sun Yat Sen. Her former living quarters are now a small museum (note the pistol that Sun Yat Sen gave his wife as a wedding present). The gardens surrounding the house are beautiful.

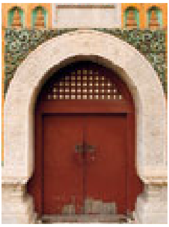
9 Yandai Xie Jie

One of the loveliest streets in Beijing is lined with historic buildings *(main pic)*, most of which have been converted into small boutiques and bars, including a temple that is now a café.

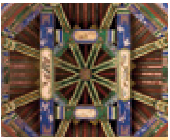
For more on Hou Hai and around **See pp78–83**

TOP 10 Summer Palace

A sprawling landscaped park on the edge of the city, the Summer Palace was a seasonal imperial retreat from the stifling confines of the Forbidden City. It was the favored haunt of the fiercesome Empress Cixi, who had it rebuilt twice: once following its destruction by French and English troops in 1860, and again in 1902, after it was plundered during the Boxer Rebellion.



Sea of Wisdom temple



Painted ceiling in the Long Corridor

There are several small snack kiosks in the park grounds.

Avoid visiting on days with poor visibility when you risk missing the superb views across the lake that are one of the highlights of a visit to the Summer Palace.

6 miles (10 km) NW of central Beijing
- *6288 1144*
- *Subway: Xizhi Men then bus No. 32, or 808 from the zoo*
- *Open: Apr–Oct 6:30am–8pm daily. Nov–Mar 7am–7pm daily. Last admission 2 hrs before closing*
- *Admission: Apr–Oct ¥50. Nov–Mar ¥40*
- *Audio guides are available for ¥30*

Top 10 Features

1. Hall of Happiness and Longevity
2. Garden of Virtue and Harmony
3. Long Corridor
4. Longevity Hill
5. Tower of the Fragrance of the Buddha
6. Temple of the Sea of Wisdom
7. Marble Boat
8. Suzhou Street
9. South Lake Island
10. Seventeen-arch Bridge

1 Hall of Happiness and Longevity

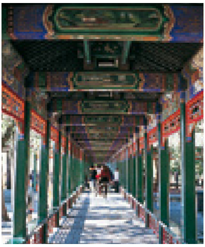
This impressive hall was the residence of the Empress Cixi. It has supposedly been left just as it was at the time of her death in 1908, complete with its Qing dynasty-era furniture.

2 Garden of Virtue and Harmony

This pretty complex of roofed corridors, small pavilions, rock gardens and pools also includes Cixi's private three-story theater *(left)*. The buildings now contain Qing-era artifacts, from vehicles to costumes and glassware.

3 Long Corridor

From the Garden of Virtue and Harmony the aptly named Long Corridor zigzags along the shore of the lake, interrupted along its length by four pavilions. The ceilings and beams of this corridor are decorated with over 14,000 scenic paintings.



It is possible to get out to the Summer Palace by boat on the old canal system **See p106**

4 Longevity Hill

At around the half-way point of the Long Corridor a series of buildings ascends the slopes of artificially created Longevity Hill *(below)*. The start of the sequence is marked at the lakeside by a very fine decorative gate, or *pailou*.

5 Tower of the Fragrance of the Buddha

Toward the peak of Longevity Hill rises this prominent octagonal tower. The stiff climb is rewarded with views from the balcony over the yellow roofs of the halls and pavilions to the lake below.

8 Suzhou Street

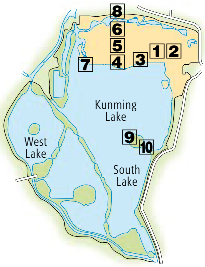
At the foot of Longevity Hill on its north side is Suzhou Street, a shopping street built for the amusement of the Qianlong emperor, his concubines and eunuchs, who would play at being shoppers, shopkeepers, and pickpockets.

9 South Lake Island

Crowning this small island on the south side of Kunming Lake is the Dragon King Temple (Longwang Miao), which is dedicated to the god of rivers, seas, and rain.

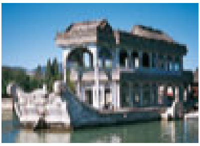
10 Seventeen-arch Bridge

South Lake Island is connected to the eastern shore by an elegant bridge *(above)* with a marble lion crowning each of the 544 balusters along its length, all supposedly individual. A large bronze ox, dating back to 1755 but looking entirely modern, reposes on the eastern shore.



6 Temple of the Sea of Wisdom

North of the Fragrance of the Buddha tower is a green- and yellow-tiled temple decorated with glazed Buddhist effigies, many of which have sadly been vandalized.



7 Marble Boat

Cixi paid for this extravagant folly *(above)* with funds meant for the modernization of the Imperial Navy. The superstructure of the boat is made of wood painted white to look like marble. Boat trips to South Lake Island depart from a neighboring jetty.

Empress Cixi

Cixi is remembered as one of China's most powerful women. Having borne one emperor's son as an imperial concubine, she became the power behind the throne to two more: her son and her nephew. When she blocked state reforms and lent support to the xenophobic Boxers in their rebellion, she unwittingy paved the way for the end of the imperial era.

For more parks and gardens **See p37**

TOP 10 798 Art District

Since the first artists set up in Da Shan Zi's newly-vacated 798 factory in 2001, the East German-built industrial compound has become a world-famous center of contemporary Chinese art. Alongside the studios and galleries, there are also chic cafés, bars, and restaurants, and a growing number of small designer shops and showrooms. The area is popular with Chinese tourists, who arrive by the coach-load at weekends.

798 factory

Grafitti-daubed wall in the factory compound

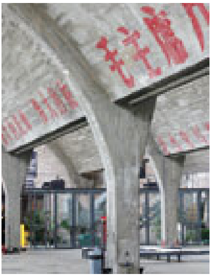
Besides AT Café another good dining option is Vincent's, which specializes in Breton-style buck-wheat crêpes. It is located just around the corner from the China Art Seasons gallery.

Most galleries are open from around 11am to 7pm, closed on Mondays.

2–4 Jiu Xian Qiao Lu, Chaoyang district, northeast of the Holiday Inn Lido complex

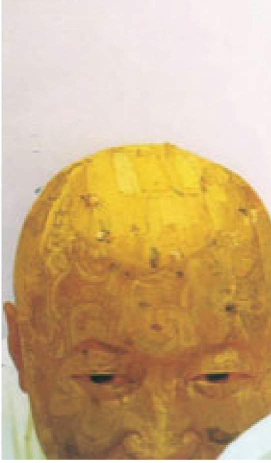
Top 10 Features

1. 798 Space
2. Maoist grafitti
3. AT Café
4. China Art Seasons
5. White Space
6. Timezone 8
7. Tianzi
8. Public sculpture
9. South Gate Space
10. 798 Photo Gallery



1 798 Space

The first gallery to open in Da Shan Zi, 798 Space *(above)* remains at the heart of the district. It is worth visiting for the spectacle of the cavernous main hall with its curious multiple-arched roof.



2 Maoist grafitti

When many of the abandoned factory spaces were being converted for use as galleries, the artists instructed the decorators to leave untouched the giant Maoist slogans that had been lettered on the walls by the former workers – as at 798 Space *(left)*. "Mao Zedong is the red star in our hearts," reads one.

3 AT Café

A fashionable café whose notable feature is a bare-brick dividing wall punctured by massive holes, AT *(left)* serves as the unofficial canteen for the artists and gallery staff who work in the area.

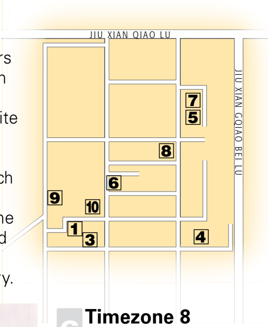
Every April/May the 798 Art District plays host to the annual Da Shan Zi Art Festival **See p35**

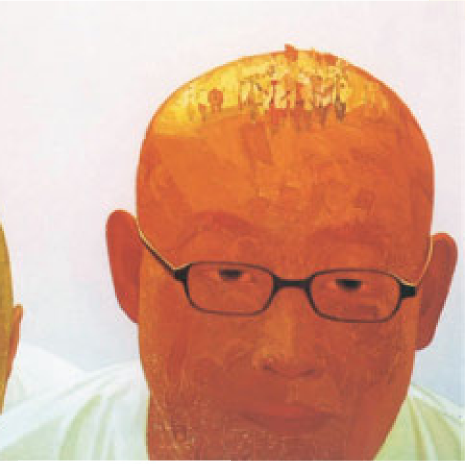
4
China Art Seasons

Of 798's very many galleries, most of which change their exhibitions on a monthly basis, this place consistently presents some of the most worthwhile work. It represents top artists like Xiao Hong, whose series "Intellectual Youth" *(below)* showed here.

5
White Space

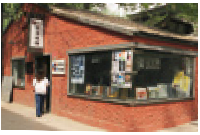
Foreign art dealers are already present in numbers in 798. The striking White Space *(left)* was one of the first such galleries, a branch of the Berlin-based Alexander Ochs Gallery.





6
Timezone 8

Established in 2001 by Texan Robert Bernell, Timezone 8 *(below)*, which occupies a former factory canteen, is Beijing's best art bookshop. It also incorporates a gallery that specializes in photographic art.



7
Tianzi

Feng Ling is a young fashion designer whose work is displayed at her boutique, Tianzi, in the same building as White Space. Her clothes are Sino Pop Art, and include items such as elegant linen tunics printed with a phrase from a Mao Zedong poem.

8
Public sculpture

Throughout the 798 compound large pieces of sculpture stand beside the lanes and pathways, and in courtyards. They are "in storage," like this giant Mao tunic *(left)* outside a local media headquarters, awaiting proper homes or buyers.

9
South Gate Space

Not a gallery, the South Gate is an exciting, small performance space, used for theater, dance, and music. It fills the gap between club and full-scale theater auditorium, and is a favorite with visiting international acts. Check the local English-language free press to find out what's on.

10
798 Photo Gallery

In addition to often excellent and regularly changing exhibitions of work by both Chinese and foreign photographers, the gallery also has a couple of mezzanine levels where a selection of photographic prints for sale are displayed.

Brave new worlds

1985 marks the arrival of the avant garde in Chinese art. This is the year that controversial student graduation shows ignited intense debate in artistic circles. The following year saw the first dabblings with performance art, and a New York City gallery introduced the new Chinese art to an international audience.

For more Beijing galleries to visit **See p49**

Ming Tombs

The resting place for 13 of the 16 Ming-dynasty (1368–1644) emperors, this is China's finest example of imperial funerary architecture. The site was selected because of its auspicious feng shui alignment; a ridge of mountains to the north cradles the tombs on three sides, protecting the dead from the evil spirits carried on the north wind. The tombs are spread over 15 square miles (40 sq km). Three (Chang Ling, Ding Ling, and Zhao Ling) have been restored and are always busy. Unrestored, the rest are open but quiet.

The Great Palace Gate, leading to the Spirit Way

There are snack kiosks at the site.

The Ming Tombs are most conveniently seen as part of a trip to the Great Wall at Badaling. Many hotels arrange tours for less than ¥100. The government operated Tour Bus 2 leaves regularly for the tombs and wall from just east of Qian Men on Tian'an Men Square every day from 6:30am onwards; the fare is ¥50 per person.

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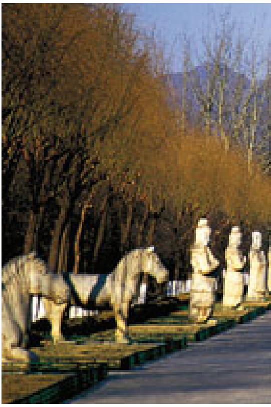
30 miles (45 km) NW of Beijing
- *6076 1423*
- *Bus 845 from Xizhi Men (near subway) to Zhengfa Daxue in Changping, then a taxi or bus 314 to Da Gong Men*
- *Open: Apr–Oct 8am–5:30pm daily. Nov–Mar 8:30am–5pm*
- *Admission: Spirit Way ¥30. Chang Ling ¥45. Ding Ling ¥60. Zhao Ling ¥30*

Top 10 Features

1. Memorial Arch
2. Stele Pavilion
3. Spirit Way
4. Chang Ling Tomb
5. Hall of Eminent Favor
6. Ding Ling Treasures
7. Spirit Tower
8. Ding Ling Tomb
9. Ding Ling Burial Chamber
10. Zhao Ling Tomb

1 Memorial Arch

Marking the entrance to the site is a magnificent five-arched gate *(below)*, built of white marble, and erected in 1540. At 40 ft (12 m) high and more than 92 ft (28 m) wide, it is the largest of its kind in China, and boasts beautiful bas-relief carvings.



3 Spirit Way

Part of the 4-mile (7-km) approach to the tombs, the Spirit Way *(above)* is lined with 18 pairs of giant guardians – stone statues of court officials, imperial warriors, animals, and mythical Chinese beasts.

2 Stele Pavilion

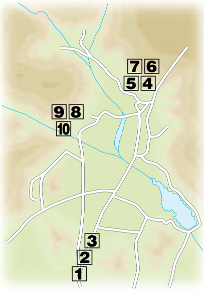
After the Memorial Arch the road passes through the Great Palace Gate and the tunnel-like arch of the Stele Pavilion. Here the largest stele in China projects from the shell of a giant *bixi* (dragon-tortoise) and bears the names of the emperors buried at the site.

4 Chang Ling Tomb

The resting place of the Yongle emperor *(left)*, the builder of the Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven, is the oldest and grandest tomb. It has been well restored, but the chamber where Yongle, his wife, and 16 concubines are buried has never been excavated.

5 Hall of Eminent Favor

One of China's most impressive surviving Ming buildings, this double-eaved sacrificial hall is the centerpiece of the Chang Ling tomb complex. It stands on a triple-tiered marble terrace and 32 gigantic cedar columns *(left)* support the roof.



8 Ding Ling Tomb

This is the tomb of the longest-reigning Ming ruler, the emperor Wanli (1573–1620). His profligate rule began the downfall of the dynasty. Building his tomb involved 30,000 workers and took six years to complete.

7 Spirit Tower

Rising up from the third courtyard of the Chang Ling complex, the tower marks the entrance to the burial chamber. This takes the form of an earthen tumulus girdled by a wall half a mile (1 km) in circumference.

9 Ding Ling Burial Chamber

This is the only burial chamber to be excavated and opened to the public. Visitors descend to a central throne room and a rear annex with three red-lacquer coffins *(left)*, belonging to Wanli and his two wives.

10 Zhao Ling Tomb

The resting place of the 13th Ming emperor, Longqing (1537–72), who gained the throne at the age of 30 and died six years later. It has an attractive triple-bridge over a stream.

6 Ding Ling Treasures

In addition to an impressive statue of the Yongle emperor, the Hall of Eminent Favor also contains artifacts from the Wanli emperor's tomb (the Ding Ling). These include a crown of golden wire topped by two dragons *(above)*.

The Ming dynasty

The 276-year Ming ("brilliant") dynasty rule was one of the longest and most stable periods in Chinese history. The founder of the Ming rose from humble beginnings via military successes to become emperor. He was succeeded by his grandson, who, in turn was succeeded by his son, who proclaimed himself emperor Yongle ("Eternal Joy"). It was Yongle who moved the capital from Nanjing to Beijing where he created a new city.

For more daytrips out of Beijing **See pp98–101**

TOP 10 Great Wall of China

The Great Wall snakes through the countryside over deserts, hills, and plains for several thousand miles. At its closest point it is less than 40 miles (60 km) from Beijing. The wall was created following the unification of China under Qin Shi Huangdi (221–210 BC). Despite impressive battlements, it ultimately proved ineffective; it was breached in the 13th century by the Mongols and again, in the 17th century, by the Manchus. Today, only select sections of its crumbling remains have been fully restored, with four main sites accessible from Beijing: Badaling, Mutianyu, Huanghua Cheng, and Simatai.

Souvenir stall at Badaling

The wall is exposed to the elements: it is extremely hot in summer (bring sun cream and lots of water) and bitterly cold in winter.

There are cafés and refreshment stands at each of the main four sites, although it's better to bring your own food.

Badaling *44 miles (70 km) NW of Beijing • 6912 2222 • Bus 1 from Qian Men • Open 7:30am–5pm daily • ¥45*

Mutianyu *56 miles (90 km) N of Beijing • 6162 6505 • Bus 6 from Xuanwu Men • Open 7am–6:30pm daily • ¥35*

Huanghua Cheng *37 miles (60 km) N of Beijing • Open 8am–5pm Mon–Fri; 7:30am–5:30pm Sat, Sun • ¥25*

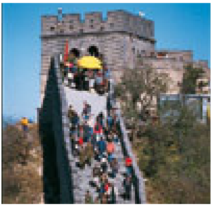
Simatai *68 miles (110 km) NE of Beijing • 6903 1051 • Bus 6 from Xuanwu Men • Open 8am–5pm daily • ¥40*

Top 10 Features

1. Badaling
2. Great Wall Museum
3. Juyong Guan
4. Commune at the Great Wall
5. Mutianyu
6. Huanghua Cheng
7. Simatai
8. Jingshanling
9. Gubeikou
10. Shanhaiguan

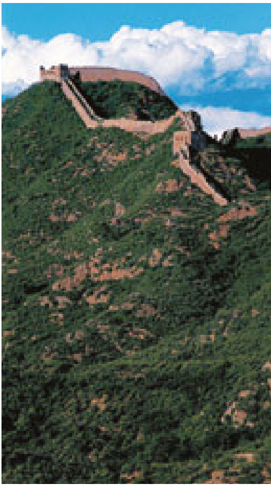
1 Badaling

The restored Ming fortification at Badaling *(below)* is the closest section of the wall to Beijing. Although perpetually busy, it is possible to escape the crowds by walking along the wall; and the views are spectacular.



2 Great Wall Museum

Housed in an imitation Qing dynasty building at Badaling, the museum presents the history of the region from neolithic times, as well as detailing the construction of the wall. Admission is covered in the cost of your wall ticket.



3 Juyong Guan

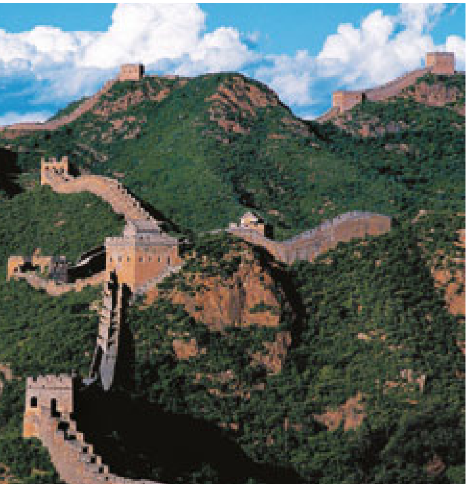
This pass is on the way to Badaling. With unscalable mountains on either side it is easy to see why the spot was chosen for defence. Early cannons remain on the ramparts *(below)*. Also worth seeing are Buddhist carvings on a stone platform, or "cloud terrace," in the middle of the pass.

4 Commune at the Great Wall

Within sight of the wall at Badaling, the Commune *(right)* consists of 12 stunning, contemporary villas, each designed by a different, celebrated Asian architect. The complex operates as a hotel *(see p113)*, but non-guests can drop by the restaurant for lunch.

5 Mutianyu

The appeal of Mutianyu lies in its dramatic hilly setting and less intrusive tourist industry. With a series of watchtowers along its restored length, the wall here dates from 1368.



6 Huanghua Cheng

On the same stretch of wall as Mutianyu, Huanghua Cheng *(below)* is an exhilarating section of Ming fortifications that is far less developed than most other parts. The great barrier is split into two by a large reservoir. The crumbling masonry can be uneven and fairly treacherous, so you need to take care.

9 Gubeikou

Lying farther west of Jingshanling, Gubeikou is a heavily fortified pass from where you can begin a 15-mile (25-km) walk to Simatai. It is, if you are really fit, possible to do it in one day.

10 Shanhaiguan

This is where the wall ends (or begins), at the sea. East of town, the "First Pass Under Heaven" is a formidable section of wall attached to a gatehouse. It lies some 218 miles (350 km) east of Beijing but it does make for a worthwhile overnight trip.

7 Simatai

The wall at Simatai *(above)* has only been partially repaired, and so affords a more genuine impression of the original wall. It is very steep and hazardous here in parts, and can even be quite risky to navigate.

8 Jingshanling

The starting point for a 6-mile (10-km) trek to Simatai, which because of the steep and stony trail usually takes around four hours. The views as the wall winds over sharp peak after sharp peak are fantastic, but you have to work for them.

Visiting the wall

Most hotels are able to organize a trip to the wall, usually combined with a visit to the Ming Tombs *(see pp26–7)*. However, be sure to find out whether there are any unwanted diversions planned to cloisonné workshops, jade factories, or Chinese medicine clinics. Small groups can have a more personalized visit, and see the more remote parts of the wall, by hiring a taxi for the day from Beijing and sharing the cost.

For more daytrips out of Beijing **See pp98–101**

Left **Mongol horsemen** Center **Empress Cixi** Right **Red Army tank**

TOP 10 Moments in History

1 500,000 BC: Peking Man hunts and gathers

Unearthed in the 1920s from a cave at Zhoukoudian, 30 miles (45 km) SW of Beijing, 40-odd fossilized bones and primitive implements were identified as the prehistoric remains of Peking Man *(Homo erectus Pekinensis)*, who lived in the vicinity over 500,000 years ago.

2 1215: Genghis Khan sacks Zhongdu

The future Beijing was developed as an auxiliary capital under the Liao (907–1125) and Jin dynasties (1115–1234), at which time it was known as Zhongdu. In 1215 it was invaded and razed by a Mongol army led by the fearsome Genghis Khan.

3 Late 13th century: Marco Polo visits

Under the first emperor of the Mongol Yuan dynasty, Kublai Khan (r. 1260–1294), the city became known as Khanbalik, and was one of twin capitals – the other was Yuanshangdu, or Xanadu – of the largest empire ever known. The Italian traveler Marco Polo was dazzled by the imperial palace:"The building is altogether so vast and beautiful, that no man on earth could design anything superior to it."

4 1403–25: Construction of the Forbidden City

The Ming emperor Yongle (r. 1403–24) destroyed the palaces of his Mongol predecessors in order to rebuild the city, which he renamed Beijing (Northern Capital). He is credited with laying the foundations for the city as it is today, and the Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven began to take shape during his reign.

"Last Emperor" Pu Yi

5 1900: Boxer Rebellion

Western powers, frustrated by the reluctance of the Chinese to open up to foreign trade, put the imperial court under pressure, eventually going to war to protect their trade in opium. In 1900, championed by the Empress Cixi, a band of rebels from north China known as the Boxers attacked Beijing's Foreign Legation Quarter. A joint eight-nation army had to be sent to lift the siege.

6 1912: The End of Empire

The last emperor, Pu Yi, ascended the throne at the age of three. Four years later, in February 1912, his brief reign was brought to a premature end when he was forced to abdicate by general Yuan Shikai's new National Assembly.

Previous pages **Great Wall north of Beijing**

7 1949: Founding of the People's Republic of China

On January 31, 1949, Communist forces led by Mao Zedong seized Beijing. On October 1, Mao proclaimed the foundation of the People's Republic of China from the gallery of the Tian'an Men.

8 1965: Launch of the Cultural Revolution

Having socialized industry and agriculture, Mao called on the masses to transform society itself. All distinctions between manual and intellectual work were to be abolished and class distinction was to be eradicated. The revolution reached its violent peak in 1967, with the Red Guards spreading fear and havoc.

9 1976: The death of Mao

On September 9, 1976 Mao died. The destructive policies of the Cultural Revolution were abandoned. Mao's long-time opponent Deng Xiaoping emerged as leader, implementing reforms that encouraged greater economic freedom.

10 2001: Beijing is awarded the 2008 Olympics

In July 2001 International Olympic Committee members meeting in Moscow awarded China the 2008 Games. Thousands flocked to Tian'an Men Square to celebrate – the first unscripted mass gathering here since 1989's massacre.

Tian'an Men, birthplace of modern China

Top 10 Chinese Inventions

1 Porcelain
The Chinese invented porcelain a thousand years before Europe caught on – and kept production methods secret to protect their competitive advantage.

2 Printing
In the 11th century, the Chinese carved individual characters on pieces of clay, inventing movable block type.

3 Paper money
Developed by Chinese merchants as certificates of exchange. Lighter than coins, bills were soon adopted by the government.

4 Gunpowder
Stumbled on by Daoist alchemists seeking the elixir of life.

5 Seismometer
A ball fell from one of four dragon's mouths to indicate the direction of the quake.

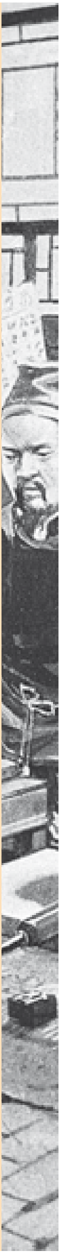
6 Abacus
Invented during the Yuan dynasty and still in use throughout China today.

7 Magnetic compass
Developed from an instrument used for *feng shui* and geomancy, it helped the Chinese explore the world.

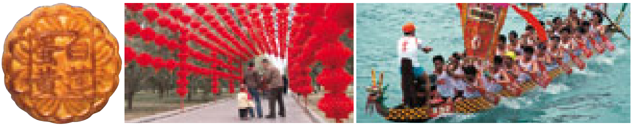
8 Paper
A prototype paper was made from mulberry bark, although bamboo, hemp, linen, and silk were also used to write on.

9 Crossbow
Better range, accuracy, and penetration than the standard bow.

10 Decimal system
Developed alongside the writing system and led to mathematical advances.



The Science and Technology Museum includes an exhibition of Chinese inventions **See p96**



Left **Mooncake** Center **Lantern Festival** Right **Dragon Boat Festival**

TOP 10 Festivals and Events

1 Chinese New Year

Also known as Spring Festival, Beijing's favorite holiday is celebrated with a cacophony of fireworks, let off night and day across the city. There are also temple fairs with stilt-walkers, acrobats, and fortune-tellers. Everyone who can heads for their family home, where gifts are exchanged and children are kept quiet with red envelopes stuffed with cash so adults can watch the annual Spring Festival Gala on national television. 🕑 *Three days from the first day of the first moon, usually late Jan or early Feb*

2 Lantern Festival

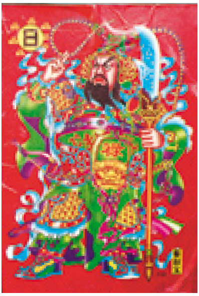
Coinciding with a full moon, this festival marks the end of the 15-day Spring Festival celebrations. Lanterns bearing auspicious characters or in the shape of animals are hung everywhere. It is also a time for eating the sticky rice balls known as *yuanxiaio*. 🕑 *The 15th day of the lunar calendar (end of Feb)*

3 Tomb-Sweeping Festival

Also known as Qing Ming, which literally means "clear and bright." Chinese families visit their ancestors' graves to tidy them up and make offerings of snacks and alcohol, an event that often turns into a picnic. 🕑 *Apr 5, but Apr 4 in leap years*

4 International Labor Day

A reminder that China is still a Communist nation, Labor Day is celebrated with a week-long holiday, which marks the start of the domestic travel season. Shops, offices, and other businesses close for at least three days, and often for the whole week. Don't plan on doing any out-of-town travel during this time. 🕑 *May 1*



Guardian hung on doors to welcome Chinese New Year

5 Dragon Boat Festival (Duanwu Jie)

Drums thunder and paddles churn up the water as dragon-headed craft compete for top honors. The festival remembers the honest official, Qu Yuan, who, the story goes, drowned himself 2,500 years ago after banishment from the court of the Duke of Chu. Shocked citizens threw rice cakes into the water to distract the fish from nibbling on his body, hence the wholesale consumption of these delicacies on this date every year. 🕑 *The 5th day of the 5th lunar month (early Jun)*

6 Mid-Autumn Festival

Also known as the Harvest or Moon Festival, this is traditionally a time for family reunions and for giving boxes of sweet and savory mooncakes *(yuebing)*. 🕑 *The 15th day of the 8th lunar month (usually Sep)*

7 Cricket-fighting

Cricket season in Beijing has nothing to do with the genteel English game. The Chinese version involves ruthless antennae-on-antennae action as cricket-fanciers goad their insects into battle in the plastic bowls that serve as gladiatorial arenas. Once the favorite sport of emperors it now takes place in backstreets all over town. ✎ *Mid-Sep to the end of Oct*

8 National Day

Marking the anniversary of Mao's 1949 speech in which he declared the foundation of the People's Republic. Crowds turn out to watch massed parades of high-kicking soldiers, and a jam-packed Tian'an Men Square is colored red by a sea of hand-held, waving flags. ✎ *Oct 1*

9 Christmas Day

Not a traditional Chinese holiday but the festivities have been adopted via Hong Kong, which means that there is a stress on the commercial aspect. High-street stores are bedecked with *Shengdan Laoren*, the Chinese version of Father Christmas. ✎ *Dec 25*

10 New Year's Day

Although overshadowed by Chinese New Year, which takes place soon after, Western New Year is still a public holiday throughout China. ✎ *Jan 1*

National Day parade

Top 10 Annual Cultural Events

1 Meet In Beijing
Performance festival with an unpredictable mix of Chinese and foreign theater acts. ✎ *Various venues • May*

2 Da Shan Zi Art Festival
Not so much an art festival as an arts circus, incorporating music, dance, and performance. ✎ *798 Art District • Late Apr–mid-May*

3 Midi Music Festival
Four days of home-grown punk, metal, rock, and dance. Venues and dates change from year to year. ✎ *May*

4 Beijing Bienniale
Artists from a multitude of countries exhibit beside their Chinese counterparts. ✎ *National Art Museum • Odd years, late Sep–late Oct*

5 Beijing Music Festival
Month-long extravaganza of local and international soloists and orchestras. ✎ *Various venues • Oct*

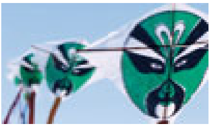
6 Beijing Pop Festival
International name acts supported by local talent. ✎ *Chaoyang Park • Sep*

7 Beijing Book Fair
Three days for the trade followed by two days of public participation. ✎ *Chaoyang Park • 1st weekend of Sep*

8 Beijing Art Fair
Almost 100 galleries from around the globe in Beijing to sell, sell, sell. ✎ *Mid-Apr*

9 Chaoyang Festival
Street theater, live music, circus, and dance. ✎ *Chaoyang Park • Late Jan, early Feb*

10 Beijing International Theater Festival
A month of musicals, operas, puppet shows and dramas. ✎ *Various venues • May*



Left **Outdoor drummers** Center **Bird fancying** Right **Kite flying**

TOP 10 Outdoor Activities

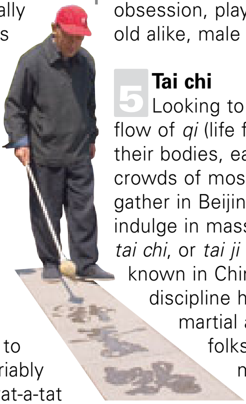
1 **Kite flying**
A major hobby among gents of all ages, especially popular on public holidays when the skies above the city's parks and squares are crowded with fluttering birds, dragons, lions, and laughing Buddhas.

2 **Mahjong**
Like gin rummy it's all about collecting sets or runs to score points, only mahjong uses tiles, not playing cards. A visit to any Beijing park will invariably be soundtracked by the rat-a-tat of slammed pieces.

3 **Street dancing**
Ballroom dancing is hugely popular with the elderly, but in Beijing it doesn't take place in ballrooms but out on the street. On warm evenings, car parks and sidewalks are filled with dancers congregated around a boombox. At the Workers' Stadium you can get up to four different groups on the forecourt in front of the north gate – choose your style: waltz, polka, foxtrot, or gavotte.

4 **Jianzi**
Western kids play it with a football, passing the ball around with head, knees, and feet, the idea being not to let it touch the ground; the Chinese have their own version playing with what resembles a large plastic shuttlecock. It's called *jianzi* and it is something of a national obsession, played by young and old alike, male and female.

5 **Tai chi**
Looking to improve the flow of *qi* (life force) through their bodies, early each morning crowds of mostly elderly people gather in Beijing's parks to indulge in mass movements of *tai chi*, or *tai ji quan* as it's better known in China. Although the discipline has its origins in martial arts, for most folks it's more about making sure that the joints don't seize up.



Water calligraphy

6 **Yang Ge**
Dancing accessorized with brightly-colored, silk fans (an art known as *yang ge*) is popular with middle-aged ladies. It incorporates stylized movements derived from folk dancing.

Ballroom dancing Beijing style

Singing opera down at the park

7 Bird fancying

The Chinese have never been great keepers of pets, partly because Mao outlawed it as a bourgeois practice. The exception has been the keeping of caged songbirds, which is a time-honored hobby. The birds are often taken to the park by their owners and hung in the trees to provide a sweet soundtrack to casual socializing.

8 Water calligraphy

Using a mop-like brush and a bowl of plain water, characters are painted on the sidewalk. Once dry, the characters disappear. It is supposed to exercise the mind and body. Tossing coins into the bowl will not be appreciated.

9 Opera singing

The Chinese are rarely inhibited by self-consciousness and behave in public as they would at home. Hence, parks are for singing. They gather in groups, taking it in turns to perform for each other; favored places for this are on the north shore of the lake at Bei Hai and in the Temple of Heaven park.

10 Qigong

Qigong combines breathing exercises, movement and meditation to positively channel body energy, or *qi*. Its adherents claim that regular practice can prevent illness and reduce stress.

Top 10 Parks

1 Bei Hai Park
Classic ornamental gardens with a large lake for boating *(see pp18–19)*.

2 Chaoyang Park
The largest afforested park in Beijing, with well-maintained flower and grass areas. ✎ *Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao, then taxi*

3 Di Tan Park
Large green spaces and cypress trees, and the striking Temple of Earth *(see p81)*.

4 Xiang Shan Park
An hour's drive northwest of the center but worth it for thickly wooded slopes dotted with pavilions *(see p95)*.

5 Grand View Garden
A park created for a hit TV series complete with pavilions, lake, and zigzag bridge. ✎ *Map C6 • Subway: Changchun Jie, then taxi*

6 Jing Shan Park
A hilly park with a pavilion providing views of the roofscape of the Forbidden City to the south *(see p68)*.

7 Long Tan Park
Lots of lakes, a kid's amusement park, and an enchanting water-screen show. ✎ *Map G6 • Subway: Chongwen Men, then taxi*

8 Ri Tan Park
One of Beijing's oldest parks, with an altar for imperial sacrifice *(see p85)*.

9 Temple of Heaven Park
Historic structures and a vast expanse of well-tended gardens, including a rose garden *(see pp12–13)*.

10 Zhong Shan Park
Just outside the walls of the Forbidden City, Zhong Shan offers a respite from the crowds *(see p69)*.

For activities for children **See pp52–3**

Left **Beijing Opera cast** Right **Acrobats**

Top 10 Beijing Opera

1 **Colors**
The colors of the performers' painted faces symbolize the individual characters' qualities. Red, for example, represents loyalty and courage. Purple stands for solemnity and a sense of justice, green for bravery and irascibility.

Painted face

2 **Acrobatics**
Beijing Opera is a form of "total theater" with singing, speech, mime, and acrobatics that combine graceful gymnastics and movements from the martial arts. Training is notoriously hard. Costumes are designed to make the jumps seem more spectacular by billowing out as they spin.

3 **Musical instruments**
Despite the dramatic visual elements of Beijing Opera, the Chinese say that they go to "listen" to opera, not to see it. Typically six or seven musicians accompany the dramatics. The stringed instruments usually include the *erhu*, or Chinese two-stringed violin, while percussion includes instruments such as clappers, gongs, and drums.

4 **Sheng**
There are four main role types in Beijing Opera: *sheng* (male), *dan* (female), *jing* (painted face), and *chou* (clown). *Sheng* are divided into *laosheng*, who wear beards and represent old men, *xiaosheng* who are young men, and *wusheng*, who are the acrobats and whose roles are typically those of warriors.

5 **Dan**
Dan are the female roles. *Laodan* are old ladies and *caidan* the female comedians, while *wudan* are the martial artists. The most important category, *qingyi*, usually play respectable and decent ladies in elegant costumes.

6 **Jing**
Jing have stylized patterned, colored faces, and represent warriors, heroes, statesmen, adventurers, and demons. Not only are these characters the

most striking looking but they also usually have the most forceful personalities.

7 **Chou**
The *chou* are the comic characters and they're denoted by white patches on their noses. Patches of different shape and size mean roles of different character. It is the *chou* who keep the audience laughing.

8 **Mei Lanfang**
Mei Lanfang was the foremost male interpreter of the female role *(dan)* during Beijing Opera's heyday in the 1920s and 1930s. Traditionally all female roles were played by male actors, although no longer.

9 **Repertoire**
The traditional repertoire includes more than 1,000 works, mostly based on popular tales. Modern productions aimed at tourists often include English-language displays of the text.

10 **Monkey**
Clever, resourceful, and brave, Monkey is one of the favorite characters in Beijing Opera. He has his origins in classic Chinese literature.

Dan (left), Chou (center), Monkey (right)

Top 10 Beijing Opera Venues

1 **Beijing Traditional Opera Theater**
Highlights shows in English. ⊘ *8 Majiapu Dong Lu, south of Taoranting Park • 6756 2287*

2 **Chang'an Grand Theater**
Daily two-hour performances of mostly complete operas. ⊘ *7 Jianguo Men Nei Dajie • Map G4 • 6510 1308*

3 **Chaoyang Theater**
Daily hour-long performances of highlights. ⊘ *36 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu • Map H3 • 6507 2421*

4 **East Pioneer Theater**
Occasional two-hour highlights shows. ⊘ *8-2 Dongdan 3 Tiao, off Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4 • 6559 7394*

5 **Hu Guang Hui Guan**
Daily one-hour highlights shows. ⊘ *13 Hufang Lu • Map D5 • 6351 8284*

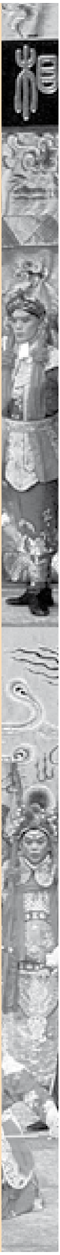
6 **Lao She Teahouse**
Daily 90-minute variety shows that include Beijing Opera. ⊘ *3 Qian Men Xi Dajie • Map L6 • 6303 6830*

7 **Li Yuan Theater**
Daily 80-minute highlights shows. ⊘ *Qian Men Hotel, 175 Yong'an Lu • Map D6 • 8315 7297*

8 **Mansion of Prince Gong**
Summer performances only *(see p21)*. ⊘ *17 Qianhai Xi Jie • Map D2 • 6616 8149*

9 **Tian Qiao Happy Teahouse**
Old Beijing variety shows Mon–Fri. ⊘ *1 Bei Wei Lu • Map E6 • 6304 0617*

10 **Zheng Yi Temple Theater**
Daily two-hour performances. ⊘ *220 Xiheyan Qian Men • Map K6 • 8315 1649*



For more on entertainment in Beijing **See pp54–5**

Left **National Aquatics Center** Right **National Olympic Stadium**

TOP 10 Beijing 2008

1 CCTV Building

Of all the buildings currently under construction, the most striking is the new headquarters of China Central Television. Designed by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, it is a seemingly gravity-defying loop of horizontal and vertical sections. When completed it's likely to become one of the world's most recognizable icons. ✎ *Map H4*

2 New International Terminal, Beijing Airport

The largest construction project on earth, British architect Sir Norman Foster's new terminal will welcome athletes from around the world to the 29th Olympiad in 2008. The design resembles a soaring dragon in red and yellow.

3 National Olympic Stadium

Set to be the centerpiece of the Olympics, when finished Beijing's new stadium will be the world's biggest enclosed space, capable of holding 100,000 spectators. The innovative design by Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron resembles a giant bird's nest.

4 National Aquatics Center

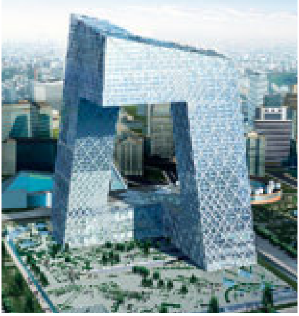
The "Water Cube" is a complex of five pools intended to stage the Olympic swimming and diving events. It's another ground-breaking design, in this case inspired by the formation of bubbles and molecules.

5 National Grand Theater

French architect Paul Andreu's silvery "Giant Egg" *(see p67)*, completed in 2006, provides a shocking contrast to the monolithic, slab-like Socialist architecture of neighboring Tian'an Men Square. The building is surrounded by a reflective moat and accessed by an underwater tunnel (upsetting Chinese critics who claim this resembles the entrance to a traditional tomb). At night, a part of the façade is transparent so passers-by can see what's going on inside. ✎ *Map K5*

6 National Indoor Stadium

Built to host gymnastics and handball during the 2008 Games, the stadium boasts a sinuously curving roof with slatted beams, which is inspired by traditional Chinese folding fans. After the Games are over, the stadium will stage entertainment events, such as concerts.


CCTV Building

7 Olympic Green Convention Center

The Convention Center is one of the principal buildings of the main Olympic Green complex in the north of the city. It will serve as the competition venue for the fencing events. It will also double as the main press center for the Games.

8 Beijing Books Building

China's conservative state-owned Xinhua bookstore teamed up with maverick Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas to produce one of the world's most digitally dynamic structures. The entire front wall of the eight-story building will be one vast "electronic bookshelf" with a giant video screen, which will address passing pedestrians much like the talking billboards in the movie *Bladerunner*.

9 Television Cultural Center

Rem Koolhaas's third high-profile Beijing project is a companion piece to his show-stopping CCTV Building. It may lack the visual impact of its sibling but when complete it will have much to offer Beijingers and visitors to the city, combining as it does a planned five-star hotel and 1500-seat theater, plus several restaurants, and exhibition spaces. ⊘ *Map H4*

10 Olympic Green

The Olympic Green will surround the high-tech Olympic Village. It's part of an overall masterplan to soften the city with trees, parks, and forested beltways in the run up to 2008. At the heart of the Green is a dragon-shaped lake, the tail of which runs by the National Olympic Stadium.

Top 10 Socialist Monuments

1 Agricultural Exhibition Center

In 1959 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the People's Republic of China, this was one of ten "key" buildings commissioned in "modern" Chinese style. ⊘ *Map H2*

2 Great Hall of the People

Over 300 rooms large, yet built in only 10 months. ⊘ *Map L5*

3 China National Museum

Every bit as brutal and ugly as the Great Hall, which it faces across the square. ⊘ *Map M5*

4 Beijing Railway Station

Prime illustration of 1959's prevailing "size is everything" approach to architecture. ⊘ *Map F4*

5 Cultural Palace of the Nationalities

The one "tenth anniversary" building of elegance. Its plan forms the Chinese character for "mountain." ⊘ *Map C4*

6 Minzu Hotel

No Chinese motifs – but suitably monolithic and drab. ⊘ *Map C4*

7 Chinese Military History Museum

Owes a striking debt to Moscow. ⊘ *Map A4*

8 Natural History Museum

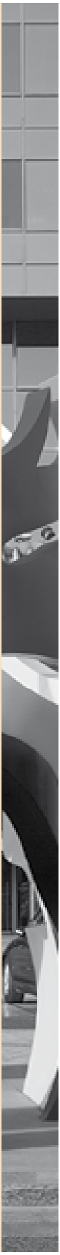
Neo-Classical Socialist Chinese – but nice inside. ⊘ *Map E6*

9 National Art Museum of China

The largest art gallery in China. ⊘ *Map M2*

10 Beijing West Railway Station

1995 update on 1959-style architecture. ⊘ *Map A5*



Left **China Railway Museum** Right **Science and Technology Museum**

TOP 10 Museums

1 Arthur Sackler Museum

Part of the Beijing University archeology department, the museum's collection spans 280,000 years, from the Paleolithic era to the Qing dynasty. As well as fossils and bones, it includes beautiful bronzes and fine ceramics. ✎ *Inside Beijing University campus, Haidian district • 6275 1667 • 9am–5pm daily • ¥5*

2 Ancient Architecture Museum

Close to the Temple of Heaven, south of Tian'an Men Square, this place is worth visiting for the museum building alone, which is the pavilion of a former grand temple complex *(see p74)*.

3 Poly Art Museum

At the Poly Plaza, a shopping mall on the Second Ring Road, consumerism comes with added culture in the form of this small museum of traditional arts and crafts. Exhibits include Buddhas, bodhisattvas, bronzes, and some exquisite bells decorated with animal faces. ✎ *14 Dong Zhi Men Nan Dajie • Map G2 • 6500 8117 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • 9am–4:30pm Mon–Sat • ¥50 • www.polymuseum.com*

4 Imperial City Museum

After wandering around the Forbidden City, call by this nearby museum to see all the bits of imperial Beijing that didn't survive. The walls and gates that once encircled the city, along with literally dozens of vanished temples, are revisited through a great many maps, models, and photographs *(see p68)*.

5 Chinese Military History Museum

Visitors to the museum are greeted by paintings of Mao, Marx, Lenin, and Stalin, at least two of whom were fully conversant with the various methods of bringing death and destruction celebrated inside. The ground floor is filled with fighter planes, tanks, and missiles, while displays upstairs chronicle China's military campaigns *(see p91)*.

Chinese Military History Museum

Natural History Museum

6 China National Museum

What the Met is to New York and the British Museum to London, the China National is to Beijing. Unlike the two foreign museums, which are filled with an international haul of spoils, this place contains only national treasures – and impressive they are too. However, only Communist Party groupies are likely to appreciate the propagandist Museum of the Revolution, which takes up the north wing of the building *(see p67)*.

China National Museum

7 Science and Technology Museum

Exhibits at this suitably hi-tech looking complex start with ancient science and come bang up-to-date with space capsules and magnetic-levitation trains *(see p96)*.

8 Natural History Museum

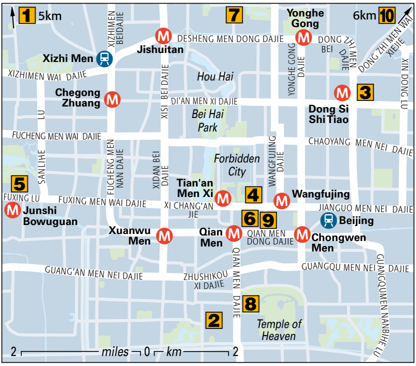
There are around 5,000 specimens on display, including a fine collection of models and skeletons of dinosaurs, and other creatures that are even more prehistoric than the Socialist stylings of the museum building *(see p74)*.

9 Beijing Police Museum

Housed in the 19th-century former City Bank of New York in the old Legation Quarter, this surprisingly fun museum boasts displays on themes such as the suppression of counter-revolutionaries and drug dealers. Famed police dog Feisheng is here – stuffed and mounted – and there are live transmissions from a roadside traffic camera. An interactive screen poses legal questions and correct answers win prizes: it doesn't say what the punishment is for those who answer wrongly. ✎ *36 Dong Jiao Min Xiang • Map M6 • 8522 5018 • Subway: Qian Men • 9am–4pm Tue–Sun • ¥5*

10 China Railway Museum

The recently opened Railway Ministry Science and Technology Center has a vast hall displaying 53 old locomotives, including some of the enormous black engines imported by the Japanese when they controlled Manchuria. The museum is some distance from the center of town, but for steam buffs the 30-minute taxi ride is possibly a small price to pay *(see p97)*.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There are more museums housed in some of the many pavilions of the Forbidden City **See pp8–11**

Left **Incense sticks for sale** Center **South Cathedral** Right **Cow Street Mosque**

TOP 10 Places of Worship

Lama Temple

1 South Cathedral

Also known as St. Mary's Church, this was Beijing's first Catholic house of worship. It remains the largest functioning church, and has regular services in a variety of languages including Chinese, English, and Latin. Service times are posted on the noticeboard *(see p75)*.

2 Cow Street Mosque

There are currently about 250,000 Muslims in Beijing. The majority live in the Niu Jie district, which is where you find this mosque, also known as the Niu Jie Mosque. It is the city's oldest and largest Islamic place of worship. Despite being over one thousand years old, the mosque has recently been renovated to the tune of $2.4 million and looks splendid *(see p74)*.

3 Fayuan Temple

This temple doubles as the city's Buddhist Academy. Founded in 1956, the Academy trains monks to serve in monasteries throughout China. The temple has an excellent collection of effigies, including a giant reclining Buddha *(see p75)*.

4 Lama Temple

Formerly one of the most notable centers of Buddhism outside Tibet until it was shut down during the Cultural Revolution. It was reputedly saved from destruction by the intervention of the president, Zhou Enlai. With Buddhism enjoying a resurgence in popularity the precincts are once again home to around 70 monks *(see pp16–17)*.

5 North Cathedral

Not far west of Bei Hai Park, this cathedral is a twin-towered piece of Gothic confectionery, painted in blue with white trim, like a Wedgwood dish. But the bright façade masks a bloody past: not long after the Jesuits finished the church in 1889 it

Main hall, Fayuan Temple

Previous pages **Detail from Nine-dragon Screen, Bei Hai Park**

came under siege from the Boxers during the 1900 rebellion. Many of the congregation sheltering inside were killed. ⊘ *Xishiku Dajie • Map J2 • Subway: Xidan*

Confucius Temple

6 Confucius Temple

During the Cultural Revolution, Confucianism was a dirty word and its temples were converted to other uses, or just abandoned. Recent years have seen a U-turn, with Confucian values being touted anew by Beijing's leaders, but this important temple remains neglected *(see p81)*.

7 Wanshou Temple

Up in the northwest Haidian district, the Wanshou (Longevity) Temple is worth a stop en route to the Summer Palace. Looking not unlike a mini Forbidden City, the complex houses the Beijing Art Museum – a collection of historical relics including bronzes, jade, carved lacquer, and a small but exquisite collection of Buddha images. ⊘ *Xisanhuan Lu, on the north side of Zizhu Qiao Bridge • Map A1 • 6845 6997 • Subway: Xizhi Men, then taxi • 9am–4:30pm Tue–Sun • ¥20*

8 St. Joseph's Church

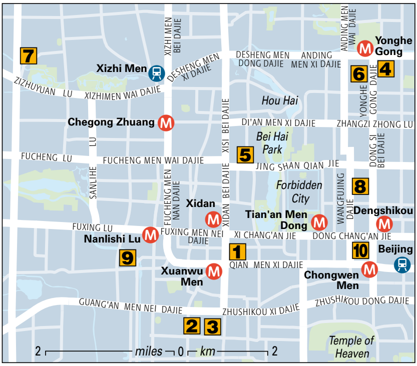
Also known as the East Cathedral, this is an attractive triple-domed church in the Baroque style. It was first built on the site of the residence of a Jesuit missionary in 1655 and, following earthquakes, fire, and the destruction wrought during the Boxer Rebellion, has had to be rebuilt on a number of occasions since. It is fronted by a gateway and piazza, and is beautifully lit at night. ⊘ *74 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N3 • 6524 0634 • Subway: Dengshikou*

9 White Clouds Temple

Home to the China Daoist Association, the temple was founded in AD 739 and is Beijing's largest Daoist shrine. Daoism, also known as Taoism, is a Chinese folk religion, which centers around maintaining a positive relationship with several categories of gods, ghosts, and ancestral spirits *(see p91)*.

10 St. Michael's Church

One of the city's less well-known churches, St. Michael's is hidden away in the old Legation Quarter *(see p75)*. It was built in 1901, with three spires in Gothic style, to serve the area's various embassies. Narrowly escaping destruction during the Cultural Revolution, it was renovated by the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Church, to whom it now belongs. ⊘ *Dong Jiao Min Xiang • Map N5 • Subway: Chongwen Men*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Chegong Zhuang
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DI'AN MEN XI DAJIE
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Forbidden City
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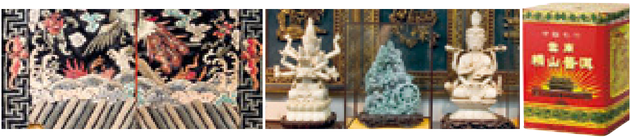


Left **Embroidered silk** Center **Carved stone statues** Right **Tea**

TOP 10 Souvenirs

1 Tea sets

You'll never look at a cup the same way again. For a start, Chinese tea cups are often three-piece affairs with a saucer to prevent burned fingers and a lid to keep the leaves out of your mouth. They are sized from mug to thimble, and the colors and patterning can be exquisite, making a nicely-boxed tea set the number one gift from China.

Painted scroll

2 Tea

All over Beijing are shops devoted to tea. One street specializes in nothing else with dozens of shops together offering around 500 different varieties of leaf. The packaging can often be quite beautiful too, from bright red tins to cardboard-tube containers decorated with a waving Mao.

3 Contemporary art

Not just a striking souvenir but also a potential investment. Collecting Chinese art is big business and some names go for tens of thousands of dollars at international auction. However, there's a lot of fine work exhibited in galleries all over Beijing that is far more affordable.

Chinese tea set

4 Silk

A Chinese invention and still widely employed today for fine-quality clothing and embroidery. Genuine silk garments are expensive but look out for cheaper household accessories such as silk cushions or bags.

5 Calligraphy

It's a skill that is as revered as painting. Master calligraphers practice their art assiduously, and their works can be very expensive. However, hanging wall scrolls are available at affordable prices and make beautiful souvenirs, especially for anyone with an appropriately Zen-like apartment back home.

6 Marble chops

A chop is a signature, carved onto wood, marble, stone or, these days, plastic, and used as a stamp on official documents or contracts. It is impossible to do business in China without a chop. You can quickly and easily get your own by having your name translated into Chinese characters and taking it along to a chop-maker.

7 Mao memorabilia

The great icon, Mao appears on posters, badges, banners, and almost anything else with a flat surface. There are shops and stalls that trade in nothing but Mao in the Dazhalan district and at Panjiayuan Market.

8 Ceramics

China has been producing ceramics for centuries. The finest come from Jingdezhen, and can be seen at Ceramic City at 277 Wangfujing Dajie. Just remember, you have to get it home in one piece.

9 Lanterns and lamps

The beautiful red lanterns that see you see hanging all over Beijing make a fantastic and very affordable souvenir of China. An equally attractive variant are the table lamps with distinctive red, tulip-shaped shades. These should cost no more than a few yuan.

10 Designer clothing

Hottest souvenirs from Beijing are top-label international brands, sold here for a fraction of the cost back home. They are all, of course, fakes – almost passable copies but poorer quality. Those whose copyrights are being infringed have begun to take legal action and the days of the fakes may be numbered.

Mao memorabilia

Top 10 Galleries

1 798 Space

For contemporary art the place to go is the 798 Art District, and this is the gallery that started it all *(see p24)*.

2 CourtYard Gallery

Basement gallery attached to classy restaurant *(see p60)*. **www**.courtyard-gallery.com

3 Red Gate Gallery

Art in a 15th-century city watchtower *(see p85)*. **www**.redgategallery.com

4 Beijing Arts & Crafts Central Store

Possibly the best souvenir store in town, filled with silks ceramics, jade, calligraphy, and paintings *(see p70)*.

5 Imperial Archive

An impressive complex to wander around and art for sale in some of the halls. ⊘ *136 Nan Chizi Dajie • Map M4*

6 China Art Seasons

A high-ceilinged space well suited to large-scale sculpture *(see p25)*. **www**.artseasons.com.sg

7 Beijing Art Now

Exciting art space in the grounds of the Workers' Stadium. **www**.artnow.cn

8 Green T. House

Art here has to compete with Beijing's wackiest bit of interior design *(see p60)*. **www**.greenteahouse.com.cn

9 Timezone 8

Art book store with a small gallery specializing in photography *(see p25)*. **www**.timezone8.com

10 Zen Cat Gallery

Unique gallery on the shores of Hou Hai (14 Hou Hai Nanyan) that acts as a show space for the eye-catching creations of kooky artist Dong Zi. ⊘ *Map D2*

For Beijing's Top 10 markets and malls **See pp50–51**

Left **Hong Qiao Market** Right **Panjiayuan Antique Market**

Markets and Malls

Oriental Plaza

1 Hong Qiao Market

Best known for pearls (hence its alternative name, the "Pearl Market"), with a huge range available, freshwater and seawater, up on the third floor. The floors below are a tight compress of clothing, shoes, electronics, and more, while in the basement is a pungent, but fascinating market for fish, frogs, and snakes *(see p76)*.

2 Oriental Plaza

A large mall that stretches a whole city block and boasts several levels of top-end retailers including Paul Smith, Swarovski, Sisley, Max Mara, and Apple. There are also a couple of supermarkets, a sizeable pharmacy, a big CD and DVD store, and an excellent food court *(see also p70)*.

3 Silk Market

More properly known as Xiushui, this is the most infamous market in Beijing. It is reportedly the city's third main tourist attraction after the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. Some 100,000 shoppers a day visit to snap up famous brand goods for ridiculously low prices. Of course, they are all fakes, but who's to know? However, visitors may not have to struggle with the morality of it all for much longer, as the trade in counterfeits is likely to be stamped out before the Olympics come to town *(see also p88)*.

4 Yaxiu Market

At the center of the embassy district of Sanlitun, Yaxiu (or Yashow) offers more of the same as the Silk Market: four floors of clothing, bags, shoes, and sportswear, plus some jewelry, nail salons, and a bunch of tailors on the top floor who can run up a gent's suit for around ¥350 *(see also p88)*.

5 Panjiayuan Antique Market

As much a tourist attraction as a shopping experience, Panjiayuan is home to around 3,000 dealers peddling everything from broken bicycles to family heirlooms. Come for Mao memorabilia, a Qing-dynasty vase, or yellowing Tintin comics in Chinese. The market kicks off daily at 4:30am, and is at its busiest, best, and most chaotic at the weekends.

Beijing shopper

Serious collectors swoop at dawn, but it's fun any time.
✎ Panjiayuan Qiao • Map H6 • 6775 2405 • Subway: Guomao, then taxi • Open 4:30am–2:30pm daily

6

China World Shopping Mall

Beijing's ritziest mall is attached to the equally luxurious China World Hotel. The mall, which is also known as Guomao, is home to elite international brands such as Moschino, Prada, Cartier, and Louis Vuitton. Prices are at least as expensive as back home *(see also p88)*.

7

Dong Jiao Wholesale Market

In a series of hangar-like buildings southeast of SOHO, traders sell just about anything and everything. It is where restaurants and hotels buy pots and pans, schools come for classroom supplies, service staff buy uniforms, and small traders and cooks come for fresh fruit and vegetables. You may not need a carton of 1,000 chopsticks, but it is fascinating to browse, all the same.
✎ Dong Si Huan Zhong Lu, west of Sihui Bridge • Map G4 • Subway: Guomao

Beaded purse

8

Lai Tai Market

This covered market, just north of the Third Ring Road, not far from the Kempinski hotel, is an appealing mix of garden center and tropical fish store. Half the vast ground floor is filled with bamboo, cactus, and ornamental rockeries, while the other half is all large aquariums of brightly colored marine life – plus ceramics downstairs.
✎ Nuren Jie, off Xiaoyun Lu • Map H1 • Subway: Dong Zhi Men, then taxi

Bead stall at Yaxiu Market

9

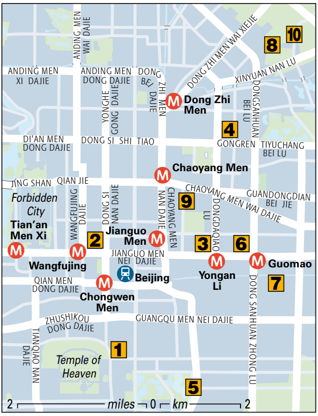
Aliens Street Market

Bizarre name, but the aliens in question are the Russians, who do most of the buying and selling here *(see also p88)*.

10

Grand World Electrical Market

Pick up a used mobile phone for under ¥300, or a new model for two-thirds the normal retail price. Aside from phones, there are three floors packed with TVs, CD and mp3 players, and games consoles.
✎ Nuren Jie, off Xiaoyun Lu • Map H1 • Subway: Dong Zhi Men, then taxi



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Unless stated otherwise, most markets and malls tend to be open approximately 9am–9pm daily

Left **Natural History Museum** Center **China Ethnic Culture Park** Right **At play in the park**

Top 10 Children's Attractions

1

Beijing Amusement Park

An old-style fairground with a Ferris wheel, teacup merry-go-round, mini rollercoaster, and go-kart track. It's all set lakeside in the grassy surrounds of Long Tan Park. Avoid at weekends and on public holidays, when the place gets uncomfortably crowded. ✎ *1 Zuo'an Men Nei Dajie, west entrance Long Tan Park • Map F6 • 6711 1155 • Subway: Tiantan Dong Men • Jul, Aug 9am–8:30pm daily. Sep–Mar 9am–6pm daily • ¥100; children ¥70; under 1.1 m free*

2

Beijing Zoo

Most children will remain happily oblivious to the poor conditions that many of the animals are kept in and which are likely to upset older animal lovers. However, the pandas are well cared for and the setting is pleasant and leafy *(see p92)*.

3

Beijing Aquarium

Located in the northeastern corner of the zoo, this is a new and very impressive attraction, which will keep children happy for hours, especially the dolphin shows *(see p92)*.

Pandas at Beijing Zoo

4

Fundazzle

Fundazzle is a massive indoor kid's playground. Loud and bright, it has a two-story jungle gym, a vast plastic ball-filled pool, trampolines, swings, and a host of other activities and enticements with which to reward young children who've just had to endure hours of being dragged round the Forbidden City. ✎ *Gongren Tiyuchang Nan Lu, south side of Workers' Stadium • Map G3 • 6500 4193 • Subway: Chaoyang Men • 9am–5:pm Mon–Fri; 9am–7pm Sat, Sun • ¥30 for 2 hrs • www.fandoule.com*

5

Natural History Museum

As long as you steer them clear of the horror show that is the exhibit of partially dissected human bodies, children will love the giant animatronic dinosaurs and prehistoric skeletons, as well as the plethora of stuffed animals of all species and sizes *(see p74)*.

6

China Ethnic Culture Park

Like an overgrown model village, "China World" is filled with colorful models of buildings representing all the nation's many and varied ethnic minorities. Some of the models are huge, and it's all very colorful, as are the regular performances by ethnic musicians and singers in full costume *(see p96)*.

Beijing Aquarium at Beijing Zoo

7 Blue Zoo Beijing

Not to be confused with Beijing Zoo, this is a small but beautifully done aquarium. It has an enormous coral reef tank containing an array of visually exciting marine life, including eels, rays, and sharks. A big plus is that the tanks are set low enough that toddlers can peer into them. There's also a "marine tunnel" and twice-daily shark feeding sessions *(see p86)*.

8 Science and Technology Museum

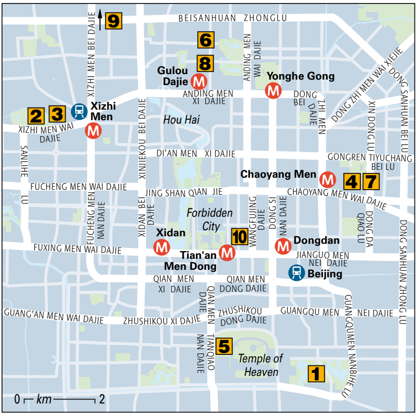
Lots of hands-on and interactive exhibits for children to pull, push, and even walk through. There is also an Imax-style movie theater and an indoor play area on the third and fourth floors of a separate building north of the main entrance *(see p96)*.

9 Happy Valley

Disneyland-style theme park divided into six themed regions, with 120 attractions. The park's aim is to keep both parents and children content by providing interactive education experiences. Thrill-seekers will can enjoy no less than 40 rides, of which ten are "extreme," including a "Drop Tower" in which riders fall at 72 km/h in a terrifying simulated plunge to earth. There is also a shopping complex, and an IMAX cinema. *✆ Sifang, just off the Fourth Ring Road • 6738 3333 • 9:30am–8pm daily • ¥120; ¥60 children; under 1.2 m free*

10 New China Children's Store

A monster children's store on Beijing's main shopping street, with four floors of everything from carry cots and strollers to masses of local and imported toys. There's even an in-store play area. *✆ 168 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4 • 6528 1774 • Subway: Wangfujing • 9am–9:30pm daily*


9
BEISANHUAN ZHONGLU
XIZHI MEN BEI DAJIE
6
8
Gulou Dajie
ANDING MEN WAI DAJIE
Yonghe Gong
ANDING MEN XI DAJIE
DONG BEI DAJIE
ZHI MEN
DONG ZHI MEN WAI XIEJIE
DONG SANHUAN BEI LU
XIN DONG LU
2
3
Xizhi Men
XIZHI MEN WAI DAJIE
Hou Hai
XINJIEKOU BEI DAJIE
SANLIHE LU
DI'AN MEN XI DAJIE
GONGREN TIYUCHANG BEI LU
Chaoyang Men
4
7
FUCHENG MEN WAI DAJIE
JING SHAN QIAN JIE
CHAOYANG MEN WAI DAJIE
FUCHENG MEN NAN DAJIE
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Forbidden City
WANGFUJING DAJIE
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Tian'an Men Dong
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GUANGQU MEN NEI DAJIE
GUANGQUMEN NANBIHE LU
TIANQIAO NAN DAJIE
5
Temple of Heaven
1
0 km 2

Most Chinese restaurants tend to be children friendly. The Bookworm in Sanlitun has a children's reading corner. **See p61**

Left **Rock at the Workers' Gymnasium** Right **Football at the Workers' Stadium**

TOP 10 Entertainment

1 Acrobatics

China has a worldwide reputation for its gymnasts, who perform breathtaking routines that showcase their unnerving flexibility. Displays of balance often involve props such as chairs, plates, and bicycles. Several Beijing theaters put on shows, of which the best is possibly that at the Chaoyang Theater (Dong Sanhuan Bei Lu; map H3); your hotel will be able to help with reservations.

2 Beijing Opera

With its incomprehensible plots, unfamiliar sounds, and performances lasting up to three hours, Beijing Opera is a hard-to-acquire taste. However, everyone should try it at least once *(see pp38–9)*.

Acrobatic show

Beijing Opera performer

3 Cinema

The low cost and widespread availability of pirate DVDs means that most Beijingers stay home to watch their movies. So despite a vibrant home movie industry, decent cinemas are few in number. Add to which, there is a cap on the number of imported foreign-language films shown each year.

4 Classical music

Take the chance to attend a Chinese orchestral performance if at all possible. Sections of unfamiliar plucked string, bowed string, woodwind, and percussion instruments compete for attention in swirling arrangements. The main venues are the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Zhong Shan Park and the National Grand Theater *(see p67)*.

5 Martial arts

The Shaolin monks from Songshan in Henan Province have gained an international reputation for their martial arts prowess. They perform regularly at the Li Yun Theater *(see p39)*.

6 Puppet theater

Shadow-puppet theater is an art form that has been performed more or less unchanged in China since the 3rd century AD. Shows employ many of the story lines and musical styles of Beijing

Opera, while the puppets can be quite elaborate and colorfully dressed. The best place to catch a performance is at the China Puppet Art Theater (Anhua Xili, off Bei Sanhuan Lu).

7 Rock and pop

Beijing is the Chinese city with all the best tunes. It has a thriving music scene supported by a host of small music bars and clubs *(see p63)*. Punk and metal thrive but of far more interest are local folk rockers who mix ethnic instrumentation with Western genres.

8 Sports

Football's big in Beijing. The local boys are Beijing Hyundai Guo'an, who play at the Workers' Stadium *(see p86)*. Getting tickets is rarely a problem: you can just show up at the stadium on game day. Second in popularity is basketball. Top team are Aoshen who play at the Beijing Guang'an Gymnasium (Baiguang Lu; map C6).

9 Teahouses

You shouldn't leave Beijing without visiting a teahouse. Tea is served with great ceremony, complete with smellings and recitations of Confucian sayings and poetry. The price of the tea varies greatly according to quality. For venues, *see p59*.

10 Theater

Beijing is home to several excellent theaters, where a few established troupes perform regularly. Canonical works such as Lao She's "Teahouse" are increasingly supplemented by big-budget Western musicals such as "Rent" and "Aladdin on Ice". See the English-language press for what's on.

Top 10 Chinese Movies

1 Beijing Bicycle
(Wang Xiaoshuai; 2001) A young bike messenger has his ride stolen and attempts to get it back.

2 Spring in a Small Town
(Fei Mu; 1948) A man returns home to find his childhood sweetheart married. Voted best Chinese film of all time.

3 Yellow Earth
(Chen Kaige; 1984) A Red Army soldier is posted to a desolate province to collect folk songs and finds misery.

4 Platform
(Jia Zhangke; 2000) Epic account of the changes in China's pop culture during the 1980s.

5 To Live
(Zhang Yimou; 1994) Tragedy and black humor in the tale of one family from the 1940s to the 1980s.

6 A Touch of Zen
(King Hu; 1969), Sword-play films, have been popular in China since the 1920s, but this revitalized the genre.

7 Raise the Red Lantern
(Zhang Yimou; 1991) Intrigue between the multiple wives of a wealthy overlord.

8 Farewell My Concubine
(Chen Kaige; 1993) The film that really put Chinese cinema back on the map.

9 Hero
(Zhang Yimou; 2002) Martial arts waltz that to date is the most successful film ever made in China.

10 Peacock
(Gu Changwei; 2005) The tribulations of a working-class family in a small rural town.

Left **Tea being poured in a Beijing restaurant** Center **Lamb and scallions** Right **Dumplings**

TOP 10 Beijing Dishes

Beijing duck

1 Beijing duck

The best-known dish in north Chinese cuisine. The duck, a local Beijing variety, is dried and brushed with a sweet marinade before being roasted over fragrant wood chips. It is carved by the chef and eaten wrapped in pancakes with slivered scallions (spring onions) and cucumber.

2 Hotpot

Introduced to Beijing in the 13th century by the invading Mongols, hotpot is a much-loved staple. Literally hundreds of restaurants across the city sell nothing else but. It's a great group dish, with everybody sat around a large bubbling pot of broth dropping in their own shavings of meat, noodles, and vegetables to cook.

3 Zha jiang mian

The name means "clanging dish noodles" – like hot pot, ingredients are added at the table to a central tureen of noodles, and the bowls are loudly clanged together as each dish goes in, hence the name.

4 Jiaozi

The traditional Beijing dumplings are filled with pork, *bai cai* (Chinese leaf), and ginger but, in fact, fillings are endless. You can find *jiaozi* at snack shops all over the city. They are also sold on the street, served from a giant hot plate over a brazier.

5 Thousand-year-old eggs

These are raw duck eggs that have been put into mud, chalk and ammonia and left, not for a thousand years, but more like two weeks. When retrieved, the egg is steamed or hard-boiled: the white has turned a greenish-black. The eggs are cut up and sprinkled with soy sauce and sesame oil.

6 Lao mian

Watching a cook make *lao mian* (hand-pulled noodles) is almost as enjoyable as eating

Hotpot

For Beijing's best Chinese restaurants **See pp58–9**

Sweet and sour carp

them. First the dough is stretched and then swung like a skipping rope, so that it becomes plaited. The process is repeated until the strands of dough are as thin as string.

7 Lamb and scallions

Scallions (spring onions) are a common Beijing ingredient and in this dish they are rapidly stir-fried along with sliced lamb, garlic, and a sweet-bean paste.

8 Sweet and sour carp

Beijing cooking is heavily influenced by the cuisine of Shandong Province, generally regarded as the oldest and best in China. Sweet and sour carp is a quintessential Shandong dish traditionally made with fish from the Yellow River.

9 Drunken empress chicken

Supposedly named after Yang Guifei, an imperial concubine overly fond of her alcohol. The dish is prepared using Chinese wine and is served cold.

10 Stir-fried kidney flowers

These are actually pork kidneys cut in a criss-cross fashion and stir-fried, during which they open out like "flowers." The kidneys are typically prepared with bamboo shoots, water chestnuts, and edible black fungus (a sort of mushroom).

Top 10 Beijing Street Foods

1 Lu da gun'r
Literally "donkeys rolling in dirt": sweet red-bean paste in a rice dough dusted with peanut powder.

2 Jian bing
Chinese crêpe. Often sold off the back of tricycles and a typical Beijing breakfast.

3 Shao bing
Hot bread roll filled with a fried egg and often sprinkled with aniseed for flavoring.

4 Tang chao lizi
Chestnuts, roasted in hot sand and served in a paper bag. A seasonal snack appearing in autumn.

5 Tang hu lu
A kabob of candied hawthorn berries.

6 Chuan'r
In any area with lots of bars and clubs you'll find street vendors selling *chuan'r* (kabobs). They cost just a few *yuan* per skewer.

7 Can yong
Like a kabob but this version involves silk worms. The grubs are first boiled and skewered, and then grilled to order. They are supposedly high in protein.

8 Rou bing
Cooked bread filled with finely chopped and spiced pork. A variant is *rou jiamo*, which is a bun filled with diced lamb.

9 You tiao
Deep-fried dough sticks, often dipped in warm congee (a rice porridge).

10 Hong shu
A winter specialty, these are baked sweet potatoes, often heated in ovens made from oil drums.

Left **Bellagio** Right **Beijing Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant**

TOP 10 Chinese Restaurants

Foil-baked fish dish, Han Cang

1 Beijing Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant

Lots of restaurants specialize in Beijing's most famous dish, and debate rages endlessly over who serves the best fowl. This place is less over-blown and over-priced than many of its rivals, and for that it gets our vote *(see p89)*.

2 Guizhou Luo Luo Suan Tang Yu

Sharing a hotpot is an essential Beijing experience and there's no better place to do it than on beguiling "Ghost Street." The décor may be a bit dingy but ingredients are fresh and the broth and dipping sauces are terrific *(see p89)*.

3 Three Guizhou Men

Authentic Guizhou food, uncompromisingly spicy and sour, is generally too coarse for foreign tastes, but here it is blended with more conventional Chinese flavors. The atmosphere is stylish, in keeping with the local hipster fondness for minority cuisines *(see p89)*.

4 Han Cang

Little known even in China, the cuisine of the southeastern Hakka people is a delight. They use heaps of hot salt to bake chicken and fish, and do lots of dishes featuring smoky pork. Han Cang does excellent Hakka dishes and has a fun and vibrant atmosphere to boot *(see p83)*.

5 Bellagio

A supremely hip and stylish Taiwanese chain, also serving quality Hakka dishes. Everything looks stunning and it tastes even better. Leave room for one of the hugely popular red-bean ice desserts *(see p89)*.

6 Made In China

The kitchen is open allowing diners to view ducks roasting and nimble fingers speedily making disks of dough and spooning in fragrant fillings to make the little dumplings known as *jiaozi*, a Beijing specialty *(see p56)*.

Made In China

7 Princess Mansion

Qing court kitsch doesn't get much more over the top than this: wait staff dolled up in traditional dress, while dances and songs are performed throughout dinner. Touristy? Yes, but

Preparing Beijing duck

the Qing court-styled food is excellent and you are ensured a memorable evening *(see p71)*.

8 Afunti

The most famous and popular Uighur establishment in Beijing, specializing in Muslim Xinjiang cuisine. Expect lots of lamb, skewered and roasted, in addition to after-dinner table-top dancing and live music *(see p89)*.

9 Huang Ting

A beautiful restaurant: a recreation of a traditional *siheyuan* (courtyard) house reusing thousands of bricks from demolished properties, along with wooden screens, carved stone friezes, and door guardian stones. Dishes lean towards the Cantonese, but there are also Beijing favorites, including classic Beijing roast duck *(see p56)*.

10 South Silk Road

A fashionable, superior chain owned by a Beijing-based artist serving authentic Yunnanese food. Diners can sample all manner of flowers, insects, and mysterious animal parts, as well as more conventional dishes *(see p83)*.

Top 10 Teahouses

1 China Huangzhou Westlake Tearoom

Lively, with music at the weekends. ⊘ *Sanlihe Dong Lu • Map B4*

2 Confucius Teahouse

Just across from the Confucius Temple. English spoken. ⊘ *28 Guozijian Lu • Map F1*

3 Da Hong Pao Teahouse

Stone-top tables and tree-stump seats, but a bit out of the way up in Haidian. ⊘ *Fuwu Lu, off Cuiwei Nan Li*

4 Hong Hao Ge

Bamboo décor beside a park behind the Military History Museum. ⊘ *9 Yuyuan Tan Nan Lu • Map A4*

5 Lao She Teahouse

Tea plus acrobatics, magic tricks, and Beijing Opera. ⊘ *3 Qian Men Xi Dajie • Map K6*

6 Ming Ren Teahouse

A chain of teahouses; this branch is conveniently close to Hou Hai. ⊘ *Building 3, Ping'an Dajie • Map K1*

7 Purple Vine

Lovely place located just outside the west gate of the Forbidden City. ⊘ *2 Nan Chang Jie • Map L4*

8 Xi Hua Yuan Teahouse

Decorated with ornate Qing-style furniture. Just over the road from the Purple Vine. ⊘ *Bei Chang Jie • Map L4*

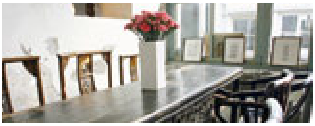
9 Ji Gu Ge Teahouse

Popular teahouse in area of antique shops south of Tian'an Men Square. ⊘ *132–6 Liulichang Dongjie • Map D5*

10 Tian Qiao Happy Teahouse

Tea ceremonies with food and bite-sized cultural morsels at the upstairs theater. ⊘ *1 Bei Wei Lu • Map E6*

For more on the different Chinese dishes found in Beijing's restaurants **See pp56–7**



Left **Green T. House** Right **Cafe Sambal**

TOP 10 International Restaurants

Alameda

1 **Alameda**
The look is LA or Sydney, the food is Brazilian. The well balanced menu includes good-value set lunches and dinners that change with the availability of fresh ingredients but great steaks are standard *(see p89)*.

2 **Cafe Sambal**
Sambal, a sauce made with chillies, features on the menu at this stylish Malay restaurant, along with other Southeast Asian specialties. The food is complemented by a beautiful courtyard-house setting *(see p82)*.

3 **Hatsune**
Hatsune has a dedicated following for its beautiful sushi rolls, prepared with fresh fish flown from Japan. It also looks gorgeous and has superlative service. On top of which, it is also a lot cheaper than you might imagine *(see p89)*.

4 **Aria**
Contemporary Western cuisine that combines top-quality ingredients with impressive cooking skills. A multi-course option with wine pairings provides a tour of an inventive but never pretentious Asian-French fusion menu that's pure pleasure *(see p89)*.

5 **CourtYard**
The location (facing the east gate of the Forbidden City) vies with the food (international fusion) for top honors. For the best views ask for a window table; if they are taken, instead enjoy the striking contemporary art on the walls *(see p71)*.

6 **Green T. House**
With its vast empty spaces and furniture so over-designed that the chairs and tables are scarcely recognizable as such, Green T. House seems more gallery than restaurant. The strangeness extends to the menu: from roast lamb with oolong and fennel, to green tea wasabi prawns, everything contains tea *(see p89)*.

Hatsune

CourtYard

7 **Nuage**
The setting is a two-story wooden mansion on the banks of Qian Hai, overlooking the lake. The Vietnamese food is variable but as a romantic night-time dining spot this takes some beating *(see p82)*.

8 **Jing**
A beautiful modernist restaurant dominated by a vast gleaming open kitchen. Watching a team of white-hatted chefs searing, caramelizing, and flash-frying is a sure way to build up an appetite, and the wine list is exemplary *(see p71)*.

9 **RBL**
An ultra-stylish diner offering contemporary fusion food built around a sushi bar. Attached bar, Icehouse, doubles as a blues club, and is intriguing for its setting in a former imperial cold storage room *(see p71)*.

10 **Morel's**
One of the oldest Western restaurants in town is this homely spot serving simple, high quality Belgian fare. As an accompaniment to the food, the list of Belgian beers is second to none *(see p89)*.

Top 10 Places to Snack

1 **The Tree**
Popular Sanlitun pub that does excellent wood-fired pizzas *(see p63)*.

2 **Fish Nation**
Fish and chips English style in an old *hutong* setting *(see p83)*.

3 **Schlotzky's**
US-style deli for pastrami on rye and all the rest of it. ⊘ *Pacific Century Place, Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu • Map H2*

4 **The Bookworm**
Lending library, bar, and a great place for healthy light lunches. ⊘ *Building 4, Sanlitun Nan Lu • Map H2*

5 **Oriental Plaza Food Court**
A huge array of international fast foods at the bottom of Wangfujing *(see p71)*.

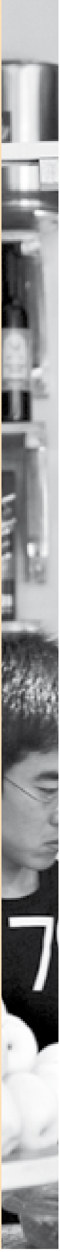
6 **Kiosk**
Excellent meaty subs and sandwiches in an open-air setting. ⊘ *Na Li Mall, off Sanlitun Bei Lu • Map H2*

7 **AT Café**
Quirky café in the the 798 Art District with a limited but appealing menu *(see p24)*.

8 **Du Yichu**
Age-old restaurant that specializes in *baozi* (steamed buns). ⊘ *36 Qian Men Dajie, corner of Dazhalan Jie • Map E5*

9 **Wangfujing Snack Street**
Kabob, noodle, and soup stalls fill a narrow alley off the bottom end of Wangfujing Dajie. ⊘ *Map M4*

10 **Coolgel**
Excellent gelateria, and cheap too at ¥5 per scoop. ⊘ *Tian'an Men Square, east side • Map L5*



Left **No Name Bar** Center **Souk** Right **Centro**

TOP 10 Bars and Pubs

1 **Bed Tapas & Bar**
The perfect Beijing bar – an old courtyard house kitted out with antique furniture, including *kang*-style beds. Excellent food, plus weekend DJs *(see p82)*.

2 **Centro**
Beijing's classiest bar is off the lobby of one of the city's swankiest hotels. Louche and loungey, it boasts live jazz, sexy waitresses, and the last word in cocktails. ✎ *Kerry Center Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu • Map H4 • 6561 8833 ext. 6296 • Subway: Guomao*

3 **Drum & Bell**
A terrific location between the Drum and Bell Towers, and an appealing mix of aged furniture, Cultural Revolution memorabilia, cheap Tsingtao beer, and friendly staff *(see p82)*.

4 **No Name Bar**
The oldest Hou Hai bar is also the best, with a ramshackle charm that defeats the copyists. Heated by wood-burning stoves, or cooled by lake breezes, it's perfect year-round *(see p82)*.

Drum & Bell

Bed Tapas & Bar

5 **Pass By Bar**
On a *hutong* dotted with several hostels, Pass By is a well-established travelers' haunt. Two attractive rooms wrap around a pretty courtyard; food is a cut above, and there's a lending library and guidebooks for sale *(see p82)*.

6 **Red Moon**
Where Beijing's smart set mingles with Executive Class visitors. This is the sleek house bar of one of the city's most high-powered hotels. Dress to impress for cocktails, sushi bar, and cigar lounge. Quality, of course, comes at a price. ✎ *Grand Hyatt, 1 Dong Chang'an Jie• Map N5 • 8518 1234 • Subway: Wangfujing*

7 **Souk**
Tucked behind Annie's restaurant near the west gate of Chaoyang Park, Souk is where

the Middle East (in the form of hookahs and Lebanese cuisine) meets the Far East. There are the obligatory *kang*-style beds for lounging and a courtyard for al fresco drinking, as well as weekend DJs. ⊘ *West gate of Chaoyang Park • 6506 7309*

8 Stone Boat

While it may not be as historically significant as its namesake up at the Summer Palace, this Stone Boat does a good latte, it's a WiFi hotspot and, come evening, it serves as a unique, candlelit venue for a quiet drink. ⊘ *Ri Tan Park • Map G4 • 6501 9986 • Subway: Yongan Li*

9 The Tree

A huge favorite among the city's expats, this is a convivial, stone-floored pub that marries a fantastic array of beers (40 Belgian brews alone) with excellent wood-fired pizzas. ⊘ *43 Sanlitun Bei Jie • Map H2 • 6415 1954 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao*

10 World of Suzie Wong

The name is from a novel about a prostitute, but this Suzie Wong is wholly respectable. It set the mark for the "opium den-style" popular in Beijing bar-land and it's stayed ahead of the pack thanks to its guaranteed good-time for all. ⊘ *West gate of Chaoyang Park • 6593 6049*

World of Suzie Wong

Top 10 Music Bars

1 2 Kolegas Bar

Live music bar at a drive-in movie theater. Two miles east of the Lufthansa Center. ⊘ *21 Liang Ma Qiao Lu • 8196 4820*

2 13 Club

Hardcore venue in the university district of Haidian. ⊘ *161 Lanqiying • 8262 8077*

3 Browns

Live jazz every Thursday from 9pm. ⊘ *4 Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu • Map H3 • 6591 2717*

4 CD Jazz Café

Beijing's only dedicated jazz venue. ⊘ *16 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu • Map H2 • 6506 8288*

5 Icehouse

Blues bar attached to RBL *(see p71).* ⊘ *53 Dong'an Men Dajie • Map M4 • 6522 1389*

6 Nameless Highland

Expect anything from Mongolian folk to Japanese punk and Chinese Britpop. ⊘ *Building 14, Area 1, Anhuili, Yayuncun • 6489 1613*

7 New Get Lucky

Nuren Jie bar majoring in Chinese rock, roots, and folk. ⊘ *Xingba Lu • Map H1 • 8448 3335*

8 The Tree

The music is incidental to the business of drinking, but the occasional act impresses *(see left).*

9 What? Bar

Terrific little, indie-oriented music bar close by the west gate of the Forbidden City. ⊘ *72 Bei Chang Jie • Map L3 • 139 1020 9249*

10 Yugong Yishan

The city's most satisfying music venue, with an eclectic but always laudable booking policy. ⊘ *1 Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu • Map G2 • 6415 0687*

Beijing's bars are normally open from around noon until 2am

錫慶門
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NOTICE TO

AROUND TOWN

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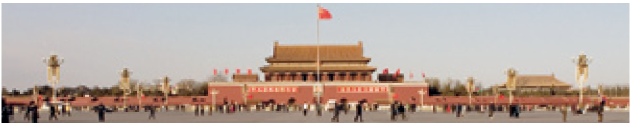
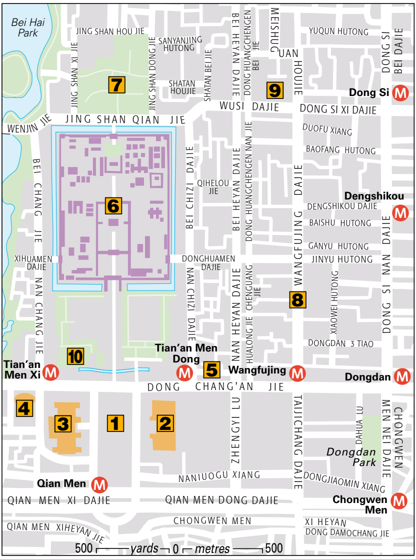


Tian'an Men Square

Tian'an Men Square and the Forbidden City

THE GEOGRAPHICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND HISTORICAL *heart of Beijing, Tian'an Men Square and the Forbidden City together represent a yin and yang arrangement; one is a mind-bogglingly vast, empty, rectangular public space, the other is an even more massive, rectangular walled private enclosure. One represents modern China, complete with its Socialist monuments, refrigerated Great Leader and resonances of recent political upheaval, while the other is a silent repository of ancient imperial glories. There is enough to see around the square and in the Forbidden City to make it worth setting aside a whole day for each. One day will present a vivid impression of China as it was, and the other an equally striking portrait of the country as it is now. And after all that, wander around the corner for a look at the new National Grand Theater and a glimpse of the China of the future.*

Mao's Mausoleum


Bei Hai Park
JING SHAN HOU JIE
SANYANJING HUTONG
JING SHAN XI JIE
JING SHAN DONG JIE
SHATAN HOUJIE
SHATAN BEI JIE
BEI HEYAN DAJIE
DONG HUANGCHENGEN BEI JIE
MEISHUGUAN HOUJIE
YUQUN HUTONG
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Top 10 Sights

1. Tian'an Men Square
2. China National Museum
3. Great Hall of the People
4. National Grand Theater
5. Imperial City Museum
6. Forbidden City
7. Jing Shan Park
8. Wangfujing Street
9. National Art Museum of China
10. Zhongshan Park

Previous pages **Tiled gateway at the Forbidden City**

1 Tian'an Men Square

Although now thoroughly synonymous with Beijing, until relatively recently there was no Tian'an Men Square. For centuries this was just a main thoroughfare leading to the Gate of Heavenly Peace (Tian'an Men) and the approach to the Forbidden City. The area was cleared in the first half of the 20th century, then quadrupled in size in 1959, supposedly allowing for up to one million people to gather. Many of the buildings flanking the square were erected at this time *(see pp14–15)*.

2 China National Museum

Two museums in one, this imposing building houses both the Museum of Chinese History and the Museum of the Revolution. Of the two, the former is by far the more interesting, with an unsurpassed collection of great works of Chinese art; the halls here are also used for temporary exhibitions. The rather dull Museum of the Revolution contains models, documents, and photographs connected with the history of the Chinese Communist Party – for political enthusiasts only. *East side of Tian'an Men Square • Map M5 • 6512 8901 • Subway: Tian'an Men Dong • Jul, Aug 8am–6pm daily. Sep–Jun 9am–4pm. Last admission 1 hr before closing. • ¥30*

Tian'an Men traffic policeman

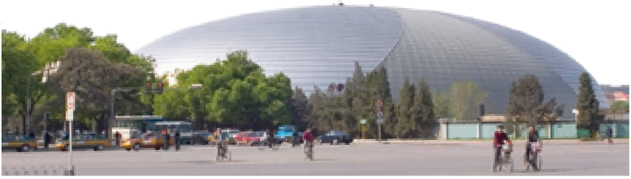
Great Hall of the People

3 Great Hall of the People

This the Chinese parliament building, home of the nation's legislative body, the National People's Congress. Regular tours visit the banquet room where US President Nixon dined in 1972 and the 10,000-seat auditorium with its ceiling inset with a massive red star. The building is closed to the public when the Congress is in session. *West side of Tian'an Men Square • Map L5 • 6605 6847 • Subway: Tian'an Men Xi • 9am–3pm daily • ¥30*

4 National Grand Theater

Completed in 2006, Beijing's new opera house is already a major city landmark. Designed by French architect Paul Andreu, it is built of glass and titanium and takes the form of a giant parabolic dome – earning it the nickname the "Giant Egg." The high-tech lighting that illuminates the exterior is reflected in a moat, while the entrance is through an underwater tunnel. *Map K5 • Subway: Tian'an Men Xi*



National Grand Theater

For more modern architecture **See pp40–41**

The cult of Mao

Mao was an ideologue whose impatience at the pace of reform often brought disaster. Skilful maneuvering by the Party meant that he remained a heroic figure. The years after his death saw a diminishing of his status, but since the 1990s his popularity has revived. Once again he is considered by millions to be *weida* – Great.

5 Imperial City Museum

Much of the Imperial City of Beijing was destroyed under the Communists. A model in the museum illustrates the extent of what has been lost, including the wall that once encircled the city, the gates, and a great many temples. There are also exhibits on the *hutongs*, plus collections of armor, weapons, and ceramics. ✎ *9 Changpu Heyan • Map M5 • 8511 5104 • Subway: Tian'an Men Dong • 9am–5:30pm daily • ¥20 • Audio tour ¥50*

Wangfujing street sculptures

6 Forbidden City

The Forbidden City is Beijing's top "must-see" sight. A seemingly endless collection of pavilions, gates, courts, and gardens, the complex encompasses five centuries of colorful, occasionally lurid, imperial history. Trying to see everything in one go will bring on a severe case of Ming fatigue and it is recommended that you tackle the palace over at least two visits *(see pp8–11)*.

7 Jing Shan Park

Jing Shan (Prospect Hill) lies immediately north of the Forbidden City. The hill was created from the earth that was excavated while building the moat around the palace complex during the reign of the Ming Yongle emperor. The hill's purpose was to protect the emperor and his court from malign northern influences, which brought death and destruction according to classical *feng shui*. The park is dotted with pavilions and halls, but the highlight is the superb view south from the hill-top Wancheng Pavilion. ✎ *1 Wenjin Jie • Map L2 • 6404 4071 • Subway: Tian'an Men Xi • 7am–8pm daily • ¥2*

8 Wangfujing Dajie

Beijing's main shopping street is filled with department stores and giant malls *(see p70)*, as well as stores selling silk, tea, and shoes. However, the

Left **Forbidden City** Right **Wangfujing Dajie shopping street**

National Art Museum of China

highlight is the Night Market with its range of open-air food stalls *(see p71)*. A little to the north is St. Joseph's, one of the city's most important churches, recently restored at a cost of US$2 million *(see p47)*. ⊘ *Map N4 • Subway: Wangfujing • Night Market: 5:30pm–10pm daily*

9 National Art Museum of China

The largest art gallery in China was one of ten key buildings erected in 1959 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. It has no permanent collection, rather its 14 halls, which are spread over three floors, are employed to host a constant rotation of temporary exhibitions of Chinese and international art. ⊘ *1 Wusi Dajie • Map M2 • 6401 6234 • Subway: Dong Si • 9am–5pm daily, last entry 4pm • ¥20*

10 Zhong Shan Park

Northwest of the Tian'an Men, Zong Shan (also known as Sun Yat Sen Park) offers respite from the crowds thronging the nearby sights. The park was once part of the grounds of a temple and the square Altar of Earth and Harvests remains. In the eastern section is the Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing's premier venue for classical music. ⊘ *Map L4 • 6605 2528 • Subway: Tian'an Men Xi • 6am–10pm daily • ¥3*

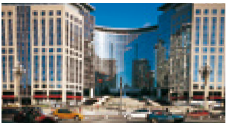
A Day Around Tian'an Men Square and Wangfujing Dajie

Morning

Arrive early to beat the crowds at **Mao's Mausoleum** *(see p14)* and shuffle through for the permitted few minutes in the presence of the Great Helmsman. The Forbidden City can be saved for another day, but climb the **Tian'an Men** *(see p14)* for the views from the gallery. From the gate walk east along the Imperial City wall soon arriving at an entrance overlooked by most visitors: this leads to the **Imperial Ancestral Temple**, once one of the city's most important places of worship. Carry on east; after the junction with Nan Chizi cutting back inside the wall to walk through pleasant **Changpu He Park**. One (long) block beyond the park is Wangfujing Dajie and the Oriental Plaza mall, with a superb **food court** in the basement.

Afternoon

Wander up **Wangfujing Dajie**, making sure to look in the chopstick and tea shops. At No. 74 is the attractive **St. Joseph's Church**, which is well worth a look. Immediately before the church is a crossroads: head away from the church along Deng Shi Kou Jie looking for signs for Fengfu Hutong on your right. Here is the **Former Residence of Writer Lao She**, offering a glimpse into a way of life fast disappearing in Beijing. Retrace your steps down Wangfujing to Dong'an Men Dajie where the famous **Night Market** should by now be set up.



Left **Oriental Plaza** Center **Ten Fu's Tea** Right **Foreign Languages Bookstore**

TOP 10 Shops, Malls, and Markets

1 Oriental Plaza

Several floors of big name international, high-end retailers, from Apple and Sony to Armani and Paul Smith. Don't expect any bargains. ⊗ *1 Dong Chang'an Jie • Map N5*

2 Foreign Languages Bookstore

The whole of the top floor is devoted to English-language fiction and non-fiction. Staff are reliably surly. ⊗ *235 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4*

3 Ten Fu's Tea

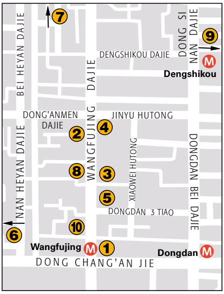
Tea from all over China, sold loose or in beautiful presentation boxes. Staff will brew small cups for sampling. ⊗ *88 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4 • www.tenfu.com*

4 Sun Dong'an Plaza

A mall full of mid-range clothes shops with a multiscreen cinema and lots of restaurants up on the top floor. ⊗ *138 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4*

5 Beijing Arts & Crafts Central Store

A vast, multi-story emporium of all kinds of Chinese handicrafts, from cloisonné vases and jade, to wood-carvings, lacquer ware, and silks. ⊗ *200 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4*


BEI HEYAN DAJIE
DENGSHIKOU DAJIE
DONG SI NAN DAJIE
Dengshikou
WANGFUJING DAJIE
DONG'ANMEN DAJIE
JINYU HUTONG
XIAOWEI HUTONG
NAN HEYAN DAJIE
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6 Mao's Mausoleum

The mausoleum gift shop is the best source of Mao badges, posters, and shoulder bags. ⊗ *Tian'an Men Square • Map L5 • Subway: Qian Men • Open 8:30am–11:30am Mon–Sat, 2pm–4pm Mon, Wed & Fri*

7 Hong Cao Wan'r

Upmarket ladies' clothing boutique specializing in designer oriental items in natural fabrics. ⊗ *28 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N3 • Subway: Dengshikou*

8 Wangfujing Musical Instrument Hall

A whole mall devoted to musical instrument shops. Some of these places are also good for official Chinese releases of foreign CDs, which cost a fraction of what you would pay back home. ⊗ *223 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4*

9 Jun Yi Home

Chinese military surplus store with badges, patches, and even uniforms. ⊗ *383 Dong Si Bei Dajie • Map N2 • Subway: Dong Si*

10 Hao Yuan Market

Small street market just off Wangfujing, which is crammed with stalls selling all manner of knick-knacks, curios, and handicrafts. ⊗ *Off Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4*

Most shops, markets, and malls tend to be open approximately 9am–9pm daily. For shopping tips **See p111**

Above **Wangfujing Night Market**

Price Categories

For the equivalent of a meal for two made up of a range of dishes, served with tea, and including service.

¥	under ¥100
¥¥	¥100–¥250
¥¥¥	¥250–¥500
¥¥¥¥	over ¥500

TOP 10 Restaurants

1 Wangfujing Night Market

A line up of 40 or 50 stalls entice and repulse in equal measure with meat kabobs but also flame-grilled snake and scorpions. ⊘ *Dong'an Men Dajie • Map M4 • From 5:30pm daily • ¥*

2 Oriental Plaza Food Court

The basement of this upscale shopping mall has a Southeast Asian-style food court offering everything from Chinese street foods to sushi. ⊘ *Corner of Dong Chang'an Jie and Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4 • ¥¥*

3 Quanjude

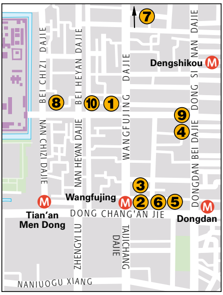
Beijing's most famous duck restaurant has several branches but this is the most convenient, just a few steps off southern Wangfujing. ⊘ *9 Shuai Fu Yuan Hutong, Wangfujing Dajie • Map N5 • 6525 3310 • Closes at 9pm • ¥¥*

4 Huang Ting

Beautiful recreation of an Old Beijing-style restaurant in the basement of a five-star hotel *(see p59)*. ⊘ *Peninsula Palace Hotel, 8 Jinyu Hutong • Map N4 • 8516 2888 ext. 6707 • ¥¥¥*

5 Made In China

Classy venture with stunning design and even better food *(see p58)*. ⊘ *Grand Hyatt, 1 Dong Chang'an Jie • Map N5 • 8518 1234 ext. 3608 • ¥¥¥*



6 My Humble House

High-concept fusion food in a beautiful conservatory-like setting next door to the Grand Hyatt. ⊘ *W3 West Tower, Oriental Plaza, 1 Dong Chang'an Jie • Map N5 • 8518 8811 • ¥¥¥*

7 Princess Mansion

Refined imperial court cuisine in a mansion that once belonged to the Empress Cixi. Excellent food comes with theatrical frills. ⊘ *9 Daqudeng Hutong, off Meishuguan Hou Dajie • Map N1 • 6407 8006 • ¥¥¥*

8 CourtYard

Beijing's most famous restaurant – lauded as much for its location as much as the food *(see p60)*. ⊘ *95 Donghua Men Dajie • Map M4 • 6526 8883 ext. 6714 • Open 6pm–11:30pm daily • ¥¥¥¥*

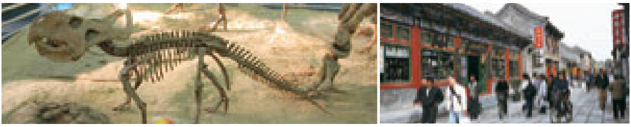
9 Jing

Outstanding Asian-flavored fusion menu in refined surrounds *(see p61)*. ⊘ *Peninsula Palace Hotel, 8 Jinyu Hutong • Map N4 • 6559 2888 • Open 5:30pm–11:30pm daily • ¥¥¥¥*

10 RBL

Classy, modern sushi bar *(see p61)* with attached blues bar, Icehouse. ⊘ *53 Xi Pei Building, Dong'an Men Dajie • Map M4 • 6522 1389 • Open 5:30pm–2am daily • ¥¥¥¥ • www.rbl-china.com*

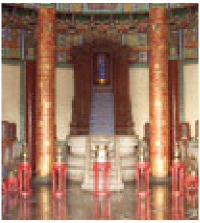
Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open for lunch and dinner. Only top-end places accept credit cards



Left **Natural History Museum** Right **Liulichang Jie**

South of Tian'an Men Square

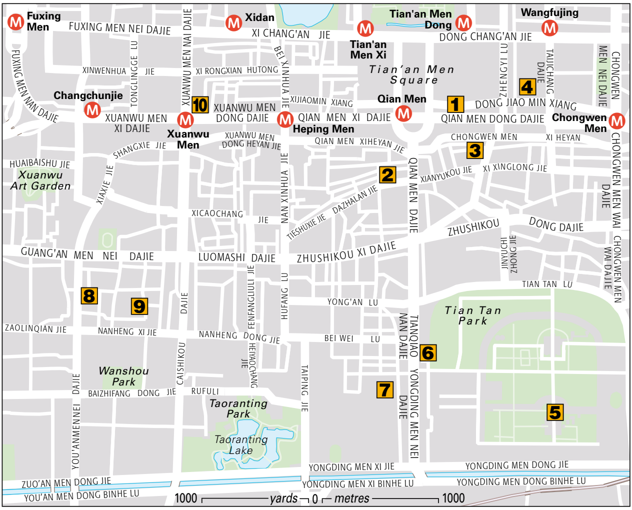
THE QIAN MEN (FRONT GATE) at the southern end of Tian'an Men Square was once part of the inner city walls. These divided the imperial quarters of the Manchu emperors from the "Chinese city," where the massed populace lived apart from their overlords. Walking south from the gate you are immediately plunged into a network of narrow and lively hutongs *(alleys), the remnants of the old quarter. Continuing south down Qian Men Dajie eventually brings you to the western perimeter of the grounds of the Temple of Heaven, one of Beijing's most evocative sights.*



Imperial Vault of Heaven

TOP 10 Sights

1. Urban Planning Museum
2. Dazhalan & Liulichang
3. Underground City
4. Legation Quarter
5. Temple of Heaven
6. Natural History Museum
7. Ancient Architecture Museum
8. Cow Street Mosque
9. Fayuan Temple
10. South Cathedral


Fuxing Men
FUXING MEN NEI DAJIE
XUANWU MEN NAI DAJIE
Xidan
XI CHANG'AN JIE
Tian'an Men Dong
Wangfujing
DONG CHANG'AN JIE
Tian'an Men Xi
FUXING MEN NAN DAJIE
XINWENHUA JIE
TONGLINGGE LU
XI RONGXIAN HUTONG
BEI XINHUA JIE
Tian'an Men Square
ZHENGYI LU
TAIJICHANG DAJIE
CHONGWEN MEN NEI DAJIE
Changchunjie
XIJIAOMIN XIANG
Qian Men
DONG JIAO MIN XIANG
XUANWU MEN XI DAJIE
XUANWU MEN DONG DAJIE
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QIAN MEN DONG DAJIE
Chongwen Men
Xuanwu Men
Heping Men
XUANWU MEN DONG HEYAN JIE
QIAN MEN XIHEYAN JIE
CHONGWEN MEN
XI HEYAN
SHANGXIE JIE
HUAIBAISHU JIE
Xuanwu Art Garden
XIAXIE JIE
NAN XINHUA JIE
QIAN MEN DAJIE
XIANYUKOU JIE
XI XINGLONG JIE
CHONGWEN MEN WAI DAJIE
DAZHALAN JIE
TIESHUXIE JIE
XICAOCHANG JIE
ZHUSHIKOU
DONG DAJIE
GUANG'AN MEN NEI DAJIE
LUOMASHI DAJIE
ZHUSHIKOU XI DAJIE
JINYUCHI ZHONG JIE
TIAN TAN LU
FENFANGLIULI JIE
HUFANG LU
YONG'AN LU
DAJIE
Tian Tan Park
ZAOLINQIAN JIE
NANHENG XI JIE
NANHENG DONG JIE
BEI WEI LU
TIANQIAO NAN DAJIE
HEIYAOCHANG JIE
CAISHIKOU
YONGDING MEN NEI DAJIE
Wanshou Park
YOU'ANMEN NEI DAJIE
BAIZHIFANG DONG JIE
RUFULI
TAIPING JIE
Taoranting Park
Taoranting Lake
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1 Urban Planning Museum

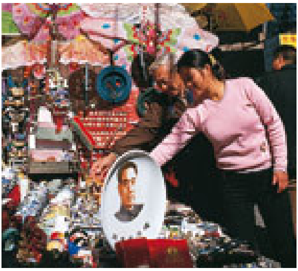
On display here are dreams of the architecture and urban landscape of Beijing to be. These are dramatically represented through the medium of two films, plus a vast model that covers most of the third floor, and which is viewable from a gallery above. ✎ *Qian Men Dong Dajie • Map L6 • 6701 7074 • Subway: Qian Men • 9am–4:30pm Tue–Sun • ¥30*

2 Dazhalan & Liulichang

Running west off the northern end of Qian Men Dajie is Dazhalan Jie, an old *hutong* area that is great for exploring on foot or by rickshaw. It is full of quaint Qing-era specialty shops selling pickles, silks, tea, and traditional Chinese medicine. To the west of Dazhalan is Liulichang Jie, with more restored buildings and many fascinating antique shops. ✎ *Map D5–E5 • Subway: Qian Men*

3 Underground City

At the height of the Sino-Soviet rift in the 1960s, Mao Zedong gave orders to carve out a vast network of bombproof tunnels beneath Beijing. Part of this subterranean hideaway, which was all built by hand, is open to the public. Guides show visitors around a circuit of dank tunnels, where signs illustrate the earlier functions of rooms, variously designated as hospitals armories, and stores for food and water. Unlit passageways branch off from the main corridors, but many are blocked, and it is dangerous to wander off alone. ✎ *62 Xi Damochang Jie • Map M6 • 6702 2657 • Subway: Qian Men • ¥20*

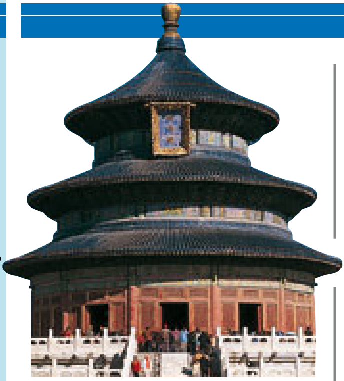


Dazhalan Jie

Beijing Police Museum, Legation Quarter

4 Legation Quarter

When the Conventions of Peking ended the Second Opium War in 1860, foreign delegations were permitted to take up residence in a quarter southeast of the Forbidden City. On main Dong Jiao Min Xiang and surrounding streets, the first modern foreign buildings in Beijing took root. The embassies and Western institutions have long since left and new, mainly governmental occupants moved in, but the architecture left behind is visibly foreign. Two buildings worth visiting are the former City Bank of New York, now the very welcoming Beijing Police Museum *(see p43)*, and St. Michael's Church *(see p47)*. ✎ *Map M5 • Subway: Qian Men • Beijing Police Museum 9am–4pm Tue–Sun*



Temple of Heaven

5
Temple of Heaven

The name refers to a vast complex that encompasses a large, marble sacrificial altar, the iconic three-story Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, the smaller Imperial Vault of Heaven, and many ancillary buildings, all set in a landscaped park. This is one of Beijing's most absorbing sights. Allow at least a half day to take in everything *(see pp12–13)*.

6
Natural History Museum

An overbearing piece of 1950s architecture houses a great collection of dinosaur skeletons, as well as stuffed pandas and other animals. There are also fish, both dead (preserved in formaldehyde) and alive (in the aquarium). Visitors of a nervous disposition may want to skip the partially dissected human cadavers, also pickled in formaldehyde, which are displayed up on the third floor. ✎ *126 Tangqiao Nan Dajie • Map E6 • 6702 4431 • Subway: Qian Men, then bus • 8:30am–4pm daily • ¥30*

The Boxers

The Boxers, a band of xenophobic rebels from north China who rose up to rid China of the "foreign devils," drew from superstitious rituals that they believed made them invulnerable. Supported by the Empress Dowager Cixi, the rebels laid waste to Beijing's Legation Quarter in 1900 while besieging the district's foreign population. The siege was eventually broken by an eight-power allied force.

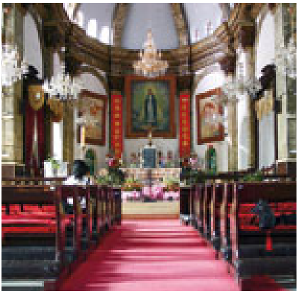
7
Ancient Architecture Museum

Housed in the Hall of Jupiter, part of the Xiannong Tan temple complex, this museum offers an excellent introduction to the ancient construction techniques of Beijing buildings, all helpfully illuminated with detailed models. A fascinating three-dimensional plan shows the city as it was in 1949, with the city walls and gates largely intact. ✎ *21 Dongjing Lu • Map D6 • 6301 7620 • Bus 15 to Nanwei Lu • 9am–4pm daily • ¥15*

8
Cow Street Mosque

Beijing's oldest and largest mosque dates back to the 10th century. It's an attractive building with Islamic motifs and Arabic verses decorating its halls and assorted stelae. Astronomical observations were made from the tower-like Wangyue Lou. The courtyard is lush with greenery, making it an idyllic escape from the city's busy streets. Visitors should dress conservatively, and non-Muslims are not allowed to enter the prayer hall. ✎ *18 Niu Jie • Map C6 • 6353 2564 • Subway: Xuanwu Men, then bus • 8am–sunset daily • ¥10*

Cow Street Mosque



South Cathedral

9 Fayuan Temple

The Fayuan Temple dates back to AD 696 and is probably the oldest temple in Beijing. All this time later, it remains a hive of activity. The layout is typical of Buddhist temples. Near the gate, the incense burner is flanked by the Drum and Bell Towers to the east and west. Beyond, the Hall of the Heavenly Kings is guarded by a pair of bronze lions. At the temple’s rear, the Scripture Hall stores *sutras*, while another hall contains a 16-ft (5-m) statue of Buddha. ⊘ *7 Fayuan Si Qian Jie • Map C6 • 6353 4171 • Subway: Xuanwu Men, then bus • 8:30am–3:30pm daily • ¥5*

10 South Cathedral

The first Catholic church to be built in Beijing stands on the site of the residence of the first Jesuit missionary to reach the city, Matteo Ricci. Arriving in 1601, the Italian won the favor of the Wanli emperor by presenting him with gifts of European curiosities such as clocks and mathematical instruments. Ricci founded the church in 1605, although the present building dates to 1904, replacing a structure that was burned down during the Boxer Rebellion. It boasts some fine stained-glass windows. ⊘ *141 Qian Men Xi Dajie • Map J6 • Subway: Xuanwu Men*

A Day South of Tian’an Men Square

Morning

Start on Tian’an Men Square, at the southeast corner beside the stripey brick **Old Qian Men Railway Station**, built by the British in 1901, partly to bring military forces straight to the assistance of foreigners in the event of a repeat of the siege of the Boxers *(see p74)*. It’s now a shopping mall and Beijing Opera theater. Venture east along Dong Jiao Min Xiang into the **Foreign Legation** to visit the **Police Museum** *(see p43)*. On leaving head south to main Qian Men Dong Dajie and walk back west for a glimpse of the Beijing of the future at the **Urban Planning Museum**.

From the museum, it is a short walk south into the *hutongs* for a fowl lunch at the legendary **Liqun Roast Duck Restaurant** *(see p77)*.

Afternoon

After eating, if you walk south you’ll hit main Xianyukou Jie, which, followed west, becomes **Dazhalan Jie**. This is a great place for specialty shops. Located down the first alley on the left is century-old **Liubiju**, selling a vast array of pickles. **Ruifuxiang**, on the north side of Dazhalan, dates from 1893 and is renowned for silks. **Tongrentang Pharmacy** has been in business since 1669, while **Zhangyiyuan Chazhuang** has been trading teas since the early 20th century. At the end of Dazhalan, head north up Nan Xinhua Jie to the **Ji Gu Ge Teahouse**, to sample more teas in an atmospheric setting.

Left **Hong Qiao Market** Right **Beijing Silk Store**

TOP 10 Shops

1 Hong Qiao Market

A vast indoor market with clothes, bags, shoes, children's toys, plus a basement fish market *(see p50)*. ⊘ *36 Hong Qiao Lu • Map F6 • Open 8:30am–7pm daily*

2 Liulichang

Picturesque street renovated in the 1980s to give it that Old China look, but still fun to browse for antiques and art supplies *(see p73)*.

3 Malian Dao

Beijing's wholesale tea street, with more than 600 tea-shops spread over a mile. Try four-story Tea City (Cha Chang), halfway along the street. ⊘ *Malian Dao Chayecheng • Map D5*

4 Ruifuxiang

Silk has been sold on this precise spot since 1893. Tailors can make blouses and *qipaos* (the old-style Chinese dress). ⊘ *5 Dazhalan Xijie, off Qian Men Dajie • Map E5 • 6525 0764 • Open 9am–8pm daily*

5 Panjiayuan Antique Market

Set the alarm for dawn for a treasure hunt down at Beijing's sprawling flea market, where anything and everything turns up eventually *(see p50)*. ⊘ *Panjiayuan Qiao • Map H6 • Subway: Guomao, then taxi • Open 4:30am–2:30pm daily*

6 Beijing Curio City

Just south of Panjiayuan, Curio City has four levels packed with antiques, porcelain, carpets, Buddhist statues, jewelry, and furniture. ⊘ *21 Dong San Huan Nan Lu • Map H6 • Subway: Guomao, then taxi • Open 9:30am–6:30pm daily*

7 Neiliansheng

Beijing's best known shoe store, in business since 1853. Infamous for supplying footwear to Chairman Mao. ⊘ *34 Dazhalan Jie • Map E5 • 6301 3037*

8 Beijing Silk Store

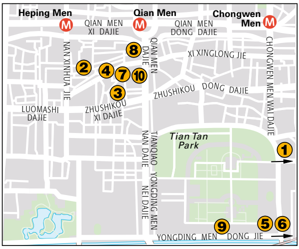
Venerable store said to date back to 1840. Prices for quality tailoring, ready-made clothes, and fine cloths are reasonable. ⊘ *Zhubao Shi 5 • Map L6 • 6301 6658*

9 Yuanlong Silk Company

Hugely popular multi-story emporium specializing in all things silken. ⊘ *15 Yongding Men Dong Jie • Map E6 • 6702 2288*

10 Liubiju

A jar of Chinese pickles may not be high on your list of essentials, but a visit to this colorful, 400-year-old shop should be. ⊘ *3 Liangshidian Jie • Map E5*


Heping Men
Qian Men
Chongwen Men
QIAN MEN XI DAJIE
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XI XINGLONG JIE
CHONGWEN MEN WAI DAJIE
ZHUSHIKOU DONG DAJIE
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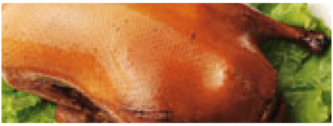
Most shops, markets, and malls tend to be open approximately 9am–9pm daily. For shopping tips **See p111**



Liqun Roast Duck Restaurant

Price Categories

For the equivalent of a meal for two made up of a range of dishes, served with tea, and including service.

¥	under ¥100
¥¥	¥100–¥250
¥¥¥	¥250–¥500
¥¥¥¥	over ¥500

Restaurants and Teahouses

1 Duyichu

Centuries-old corner snack shop serving *baozi* (steamed buns). ➘ *36 Qian Men Dajie • Map L6 • 6702 1555 • ¥*

2 Lao Beijing Zhajiang Mian Da Wang

Bustling institution serving traditional Beijing snacks. Kitsch but cheap and very tasty fare. ➘ *29 Chongwen Men Wai Dajie • Map N6 • 6705 6705 • ¥*

3 Fengzeyuan

Specializes in Shandong cuisine, which is heavy on soups and seafood. ➘ *83 Zhushikou Xi Dajie • Map D5 • 6303 2828 • ¥¥*

4 Liqun Roast Duck Restaurant

Peking duck at this chaotic, little courtyard restaurant is usually sublime, despite the rough-and-ready ambience. ➘ *11 Beixianfeng Hutong, enter from Zhengyi Lu • Map M6 • 6705 5578 • ¥¥*

5 Qian Men Quanjude

The most famous of the Quanjude restaurants and the worse for it. But call by for take-away duck pancakes. ➘ *32 Qian Men Dajie • Map L6 • 6511 2418 • ¥¥*

6 Gongdelin Vegetarian Restaurant

Guaranteed meat free, although many dishes feature "mock meat," which can look like the real thing. ➘ *185 Qian Men Nan Dajie • Map E5 • 6511 2542 • ¥¥*

7 Crab Apple House

A handful of charming, private rooms set around a courtyard garden. Serves light and fragrant Huaiyang cuisine. ➘ *32 Xi Heyan, Xuanwu Men Dong Dajie • Map K6 • 8315 4678 • ¥¥¥*

8 Lao She Teahouse

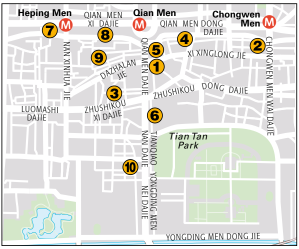
One of the first in a recent renaissance of old-style Beijing teahouses. Performances of opera and acrobatics take place in a small, upstairs theater. ➘ *3 Qian Men Xi Dajie • Map L6 • 6303 6830 • www.laosheteahouse.com*

9 Ji Gu Ge Teahouse

In addition to tea in all its many kinds and a variety of snacks, the Ji Gu Ge also boasts a small gallery and shop. ➘ *132–6 Liulichang Dong Jie • Map K6 • 6301 7849*

10 Tian Qiao Happy Teahouse

One of the best known teahouses in town. Teas and snacks, plus duck dinners, and nightly Beijing Opera and acrobats. ➘ *Bei Wei Lu, just west of Qian Men Dajie • Map E6 • 6304 0617*


Heping Men
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XI XINGLONG JIE
CHONGWEN MEN WAI DAJIE
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ZHUSHIKOU DONG DAJIE
LUOMASHI DAJIE
ZHUSHIKOU XI DAJIE
6
Tian Tan Park
NAN DAJIE
TIANQIAO
10
YONGDING MEN NEI DAJIE
YONGDING MEN DONG JIE

Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open for lunch and dinner. Only top-end places accept credit cards

Left **Hou Hai bars** Center **Qian Hai** Right **Bell Tower**

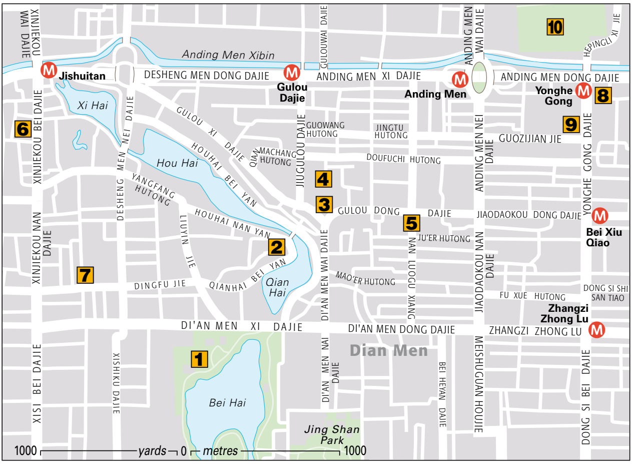
North of the Forbidden City

BY FAR THE MOST REWARDING AREA *to explore on foot, north of the Forbidden City stretches an almost contiguous run of lakes, either set in parkland or surrounded by swathes of charming historic* hutongs*. It's an area rich in temple architecture and dotted with grand old courtyard residences. Its appeal to visitors has resulted in restaurants, bars, and shops flooding in to take advantage of the picturesque settings, but thankfully much of the growth has so far been sympathetic.*

Mahjong players at Hou Hai

TOP 10 Sights

1. **Bei Hai Park**
2. **Hou Hai**
3. **Drum Tower**
4. **Bell Tower**
5. **Nan Luogu Xiang**
6. **Xu Beihong Memorial Museum**
7. **Former Residence of Mei Lanfang**
8. **Lama Temple**
9. **Confucius Temple**
10. **Di Tan Park**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GULOUWAI DAJIE
ANDING MEN WAI DAJIE
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HEPINGLI XI JIE
Jishuitan
DESHENG MEN DONG DAJIE
Gulou Dajie
ANDING MEN XI DAJIE
Anding Men
ANDING MEN DONG DAJIE
Yonghe Gong
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Xi Hai
DESHENG MEN NEI DAJIE
GULOU XI DAJIE
GUOWANG HUTONG
JINGTU HUTONG
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XINJIEKOU BEI DAJIE
QIAN MACHANG HUTONG
JIUGULOU DAJIE
ANDING MEN NEI DAJIE
GUOZIJIAN JIE
YONGHE GONG DAJIE
Hou Hai
HOUHAI BEI YAN
DOUFUCHI HUTONG
YANGFANG HUTONG
4
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GULOU DONG DAJIE
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JIAODAOKOU DONG DAJIE
HOUHAI NAN YAN
Bei Xiu Qiao
XINJIEKOU NAN DAJIE
LIUYIN JIE
2
JU'ER HUTONG
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QIANHAI BEI YAN
Qian Hai
DI'AN MEN WAI DAJIE
MAO'ER HUTONG
NAN LUOGU XIANG
JIAODAOKOU NAN DAJIE
DINGFU JIE
FU XUE HUTONG
DONG SI SHI SAN TIAO
Zhangzi Zhong Lu
DI'AN MEN XI DAJIE
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ZHANGZI ZHONG LU
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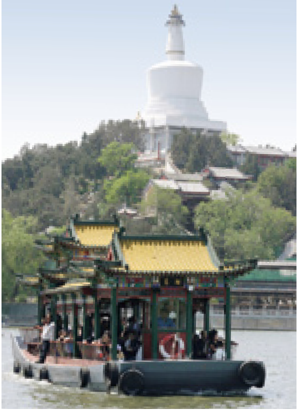
XISHIKU DAJIE
DI'AN MEN NEI DAJIE
BEI HEYAN DAJIE
MEISHUGUAN HOUJIE
DONG SI BEI DAJIE
Bei Hai
Jing Shan Park
1000 yards 0 metres 1000

Rickshaws cluster mainly around Qian Hai offering tours around the lakes and hutongs*. It's a fine way to see the area* **See p21**



Bei Hai Park

1 Bei Hai Park

A beautiful example of a classic imperial garden, Bei Hai was a summer playground for successive dynasties that ruled from the neighboring Forbidden City. Today, it is well and truly open to the public, and thronged daily by locals who come here to socialize. There are a couple of small temples, a fine, small ornamental garden, and a noted restaurant. This is arguably the most lovely of Beijing's many fine city parks *(see pp18–19)*.

2 Hou Hai

The most visitor-friendly neighborhood of Beijing, Hou Hai is three joined lakes surrounded by an expansive and labyrinthine sprawl of age-old *hutongs* (alleys). Visit for a handful of well-preserved mansions, as well as the opportunity to see a more humble form of Beijing life as it has been lived for centuries – but visit soon before the developers have their way and demolish the lot *(see pp20–21)*.

3 Drum Tower

Drum towers *(gu lou)* were once found in all major Chinese towns. They housed large drums that were beaten to mark the hour, keeping the city's civil servants on time for work. There has been such a tower on this site since 1272, although the current structure dates to 1420. Visitors can clamber up the torturously steep steps to inspect some 25 drums and be entertained by a troop of drummers that delivers skin-thumping performances on the hour. ✎ *Gulou Dong Dajie • Map E2 • 6401 2674 • Subway: Gulou Dajie • 9am–5pm daily • ¥20*

An exercise park beside Hou Hai

Confucius

Born in Shandong Province, south of Beijing, during an age of uninterrupted war, Confucius (551–479 BC) was prompted by the suffering around him to develop a practical philosophy built on the principle of virtue. Finding no audience among his native rulers, he embarked on a journey in search of a ruler who would apply his rules of governance. He never found such a person and died unrecognized.

4 Bell Tower

This dates from 1745 and replaces an earlier tower that burnt down. The great 42-ton (42,674-kg) bell it contains used to be rung to mark the closing of the city gates in the evening. During Spring Festival visitors are allowed to ring the bell for a donation of ¥100. The views from both the Drum and Bell Towers over the neighboring *hutongs* are well worth the exhausting climb. ⊗ *Gulou Dong Dajie • Map E1 • 6401 2674 • Subway: Gulou Dajie • 9am–5pm daily • ¥15*

5 Nan Luogu Xiang

Less than 10 minutes' walk east of the Drum Tower, Nan Luogu Xiang is a lengthy north-south *hutong*. Still traditional in feel, the alley is in the process of receiving a makeover and is now home to several small hotels, as well as a handful of interesting clothing and craft boutiques, and an ever-increasing number of cafés and bars, including the excellent Pass By Bar *(see p82)*. ⊗ *Map E2*

6 Xu Beihong Memorial Museum

Set back from the road with a sign on top in green characters, and opposite a branch of KFC, this museum is dedicated to the man regarded as the founder of modern Chinese painting. It exhibits a collection of the lively watercolors of horses, which made Xu Beihong (1885–1953) internationally famous. ⊗ *53 Xinjiekou Bei Dajie • Map D1 • 6225 2187 • Subway: Jishuitan • 9am–noon, 1pm–5pm Tue–Sun • ¥10*

7 Former Residence of Mei Lanfang

This was the home of Beijing Opera's greatest ever performer (1894–1961). The rear rooms have been left with their traditional furniture as it was when he died. Others contain a hagiographic account of his life, as well as diagrams of the stylized movements required by the form and a video of Mei, already 61, but still playing the young girl roles for which he was famous *(see p39)*. ⊗ *9 Huguosi Jie • Map D2 • 6618 0351 • Subway: Jishuitan • 9am–4pm Tue–Sun • ¥10*

8 Lama Temple

About a 30-minute walk east of the Drum and Bell Towers, or just a few minutes south of the

Lama Temple

Di Tan Park

Yonghe Gong subway station, the Lama Temple is Beijing's largest working temple complex. It is filled every day with about an equal number of worshipers and visitors *(see pp16–17)*.

9 Confucius Temple

Just west of the Lama Temple, the Confucius Temple was first built in 1302 during the Mongol Yuan dynasty, and considerably expanded in 1906. Around 200 ancient stelae stand in the courtyard in front of the main hall, inscribed with the names of those who successfully passed the imperial civil service exams. On a marble terrace inside the hall are statues of Confucius and some of his disciples. ✎ *13 Guozijian Jie • Map F1 • 8402 7224 • Subway: Yonghe Gong • 8:30am–4:30pm daily • ¥10*

10 Di Tan Park

The park was named after the Temple of Earth (Di Tan), which was a venue for imperial sacrifices. The altar's square shape represents the earth. These days, the only thing that gets killed here is time: the park is always full of pensioners strolling, chatting, and exercising. A lively temple fair is held here at Chinese New Year. ✎ *North of Lama Temple • Map F1 • Subway: Yonghe Gong • 9am–9pm daily • Park ¥1; Altar ¥5*

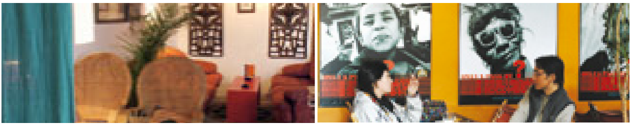
A Day in the Hutongs

Morning

Take the subway to Yonghe Gong for an early morning – and hopefully crowd-beating – visit to the **Lama Temple**. On leaving, cross over the main road and pass under the *pailou* (gate) at the entrance to Guozijian Jie for the **Confucius Temple**. Afterwards, take a break at the lovely **Confucius Teahouse** *(see p59)* over the road. At the western end of Guozijian Jie turn left onto Anding Men Nei Dajie, a wide, shop-filled avenue and follow it south across Jiaodaokuo Dong Dajie and take the first right into **Ju'er Hutong**, one of the most vibrant of the city's old alleys. Take the first left onto **Nan Luogu Xiang**, where at No. 108 you will find the charming **Pass By Bar** *(see p82)*, which has a small courtyard that makes for an excellent lunchspot.

Afternoon

On leaving the Pass By, head west along **Mao'er Hutong** until you reach main **Di'an Men Wai Dajie**, where you turn right and head up the street for the splendid **Drum and Bell Towers**. Climb the towers to pick out the route you've just taken. Retrace your steps back down Di'an Men Wai Dajie taking the very first right, a tiny opening (usually marked by waiting taxis) leading into bustling **Yandai Xie Jie**. At the end of this crooked alley is the **Silver Ingot Bridge**; cross and bear left for **Lotus Lane**. You can stop here for coffee or head round the southern tip of the lake to **Han Cang** *(see p83)* for a terrific meal of Hakka cuisine.



Left **Drum & Bell** Right **Pass By Bar**

TOP 10 Bars and Teahouses

1 Bed Tapas & Bar

A short walk north of the Drum and Bell Towers, Bed makes the absolute most of its old courtyard house setting *(see p62)*. ↘ *17 Zhang Wang Hutong, off Jiu Gulou Dajie • Map E1 • 8400 1554*

2 Huxley's

The house motto is "Shut up and drink." Compliance is encouraged with cheap beer and cut-price cocktails. ↘ *16 Yandai Xie Jie • Map E2 • 6402 7825 • 6pm–late daily*

3 Lotus Bar

Another fine Yandai Xie Jie bar, this one squeezed into a narrow, two-story house with a compact, boho interior and roof terrace. ↘ *29 Yandai Xie Jie • Map E2 • 6407 7857*

4 Drum & Bell

A modest bar in the shadow of antiquity offering refreshment and a gentle respite from sightseeing *(see p62)*. ↘ *41 Zhong Lou Wan Hutong • Map E2 • 8403 3600*

5 Guan Tang

Cozy bar with a tranquil atmosphere, although with cocktails at just ¥30 things often don't stay that tranquil for long. ↘ *13 Dongming Hutong • Map E2*

6 No Name Bar

The perfect lakeside drinking den. Expect stiff competition from the house cat for the best seats *(see p62)*. ↘ *3 Qianhai Dongyan • Map E2 • 6401 8541*

7 Pass By Bar

It may be book-filled but the atmosphere is anything but hushed at this lending library-cum-café/bar *(see p62)*. ↘ *108 Nan Luogu Xiang • Map E2 • 8403 8004*

8 East Shore Live Jazz Café

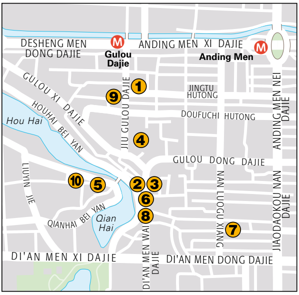
Opened by legendary jazzman Liu Yuan. Climb steep wooden stairs to four walls of floor-to-ceiling windows and a roof terrace, plus live music. ↘ *2 Qianhai Nanyan Lu • Map E2 • 8403 2131*

9 Xin Bar

This little gem has colorful Yunnan decorations, leafy foliage, and a roof terrace overlooking the surrounding *hutongs*. As well as cheap beer there are ten types of tea. ↘ *152 Jiu Gulou Dajie • Map E2 • 6400 7571*

10 Jia Fu Teahouse

Modeled after a Qing-era home, this teahouse is filled with antique furniture and often has live Chinese music. ↘ *Hou Hai Nan Yan • Map E2 • 6616 0725*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DOUFUCHI HUTONG
ANDING MEN NEI DAJIE
GULOU DONG DAJIE
LIUYIN JIE
QIANHAI BEI YAN
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Unless otherwise stated bars are generally open from around noon until 2am

Left **Han Cang** Center **Raj**

Price Categories

For the equivalent of a meal for two made up of a range of dishes, served with tea, and including service.

¥	under ¥100
¥¥	¥100–¥250
¥¥¥	¥250–¥500
¥¥¥¥	over ¥500

TOP 10 Restaurants

1 Fish Nation

Enterprising venture serving English-style fish and chips to bar crawlers. ✎ *31 Nan Luogu Xiang • Map E2 • 6401 3249 • ¥*

2 Cafe Sambal

An old-style courtyard house serves as the venue for exquisite dishes prepared by a genuine Malaysian chef *(see p60)*. ✎ *43 Doufuchi Hutong, off Jiu Gulou Dajie • Map E1 • 6400 4875 • ¥¥*

3 Han Cang

Bustling two-story rustic restaurant with a large outdoor dining area always packed with locals enjoying simple, tasty Hakka dishes *(see p58)*. ✎ *Ping'an Dadao • Map E2 • 6404 2259 • ¥¥*

4 Kaorou Ji

Majors in Qingzhen cuisine, which means mutton and more mutton. The house specialty is spiced barbecued lamb and sesame seed bread. ✎ *14 Qianhai Dong Yan • Map E2 • 6404 2554 • ¥¥*

5 Kong Yiji

Lakeside restaurant with an enormous range of exquisite dishes from the Yangzi River delta. ✎ *Desheng Men Nei Dajie • Map E2 • 6618 4917 • ¥¥*

6 Nuage

Well-respected Vietnamese with lovely location just south of the Silver Ingot Bridge *(see p61)*. ✎ *22 Qian Hai Dong Yan • Map E2 • 6401 9581 • ¥¥*

7 Raj

Cheap and authentic south Indian cusine. The décor is kitsch but there's a pleasant outdoor terrace. ✎ *31 Gulou Xidajie • Map E1 • 6401 1675 • ¥¥*

8 South Silk Road

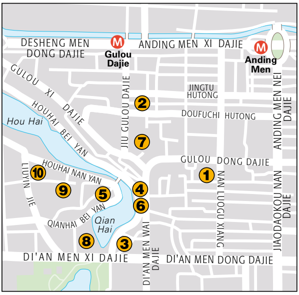
Spicy Yunnanese food in stylish surroundings beside the lakes *(see p59)*. ✎ *19A Lotus Lane • Map E2 • 6615 5515 • ¥¥*

9 Mei Fu

The setting is a gorgeous courtyard house lavishly filled with antiques. Set menus of sweet and rich Shanghainese cuisine start from ¥200 per person. ✎ *24 Daxiangfeng Hutong • Map D2 • 6612 6845 • ¥¥¥*

10 Li Family Imperial Cuisine

Intimate courtyard restaurant serving imperial court cuisine. Set menus range from ¥200 to ¥1,500 a head but the food is exquisite. ✎ *11 Yangfang Hutong • Map D2 • 6618 0107 • 4:30pm–10pm daily • ¥¥¥/¥¥¥¥*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Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open for lunch and dinner. Only top-end places accept credit cards

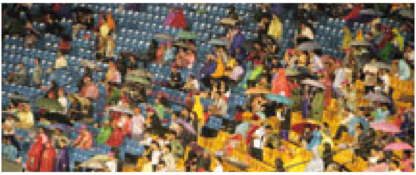
Left **Sanlitun bar** Right **Red Gate Gallery at the Southeast Corner Watchtower**

Eastern Beijing

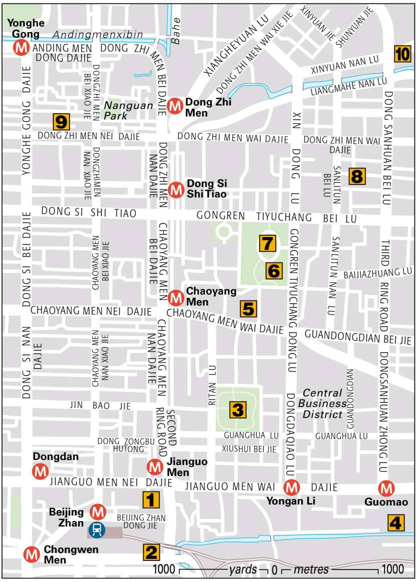
EAST OF CENTRAL BEIJING, *in a corridor between the Second and Third Ring Roads, is the district of Chaoyang. It's not an area that is particularly old and it doesn't have very many significant monuments, but it is home to two main clusters of international embassies, and it is where a large proportion of the city's foreign expatriate community chooses to live. As a result, Chaoyang is the city's entertainment and nightlife center, and, for the visitor, it is the prime area for eating and shopping.*

Top 10 Sights

1. **Ancient Observatory**
2. **Southeast Corner Watchtower**
3. **Ri Tan Park**
4. **SOHO**
5. **Dong Yue Miao**
6. **Blue Zoo Beijing**
7. **Workers' Stadium**
8. **Sanlitun**
9. **Ghost Street**
10. **Lufthansa Center**



Crowds at the Workers' Stadium



Yonghe Gong
Andingmenxibin
Bahe
ANDING MEN DONG DAJIE
DONG ZHI MEN BEI DAJIE
XIANGHEYUAN LU
DONG ZHI MEN WAI XIE JIE
XINYUAN JIE
SHUNYUAN JIE
10
XINYUAN NAN LU
LIANGMAHE NAN LU
YONGHE GONG DAJIE
BEI XIAO JIE
DONGZHI MEN
Nanguan Park
Dong Zhi Men
9
DONG ZHI MEN NEI DAJIE
DONG ZHI MEN WAI DAJIE
DONG ZHI MEN WAI DAJIE
XIN DONG LU
DONG SANHUAN BEI LU
NAN XIAO JIE
DONGZHIMEN
DONG ZHI MEN NAN DAJIE
Dong Si Shi Tiao
SANLITUN BEI LU
8
DONG SI SHI TIAO
GONGREN TIYUCHANG BEI LU
DONG SI BEI DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN BEI XIAO JIE
CHAOYANG MEN BEI DAJIE
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6
GONGREN TIYUCHANG DONG LU
SANLITUN NAN LU
BAIJIAZHUANG LU
THIRD RING ROAD
Chaoyang Men
5
CHAOYANG MEN NEI DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN WAI DAJIE
GUANDONGDIAN BEI JIE
DONG SI NAN DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN NAN XIAO JIE
CHAOYANG MEN NAN DAJIE
RITAN LU
Central Business District
GUANDONGDIAN
DONGSANHUAN ZHONG LU
JIN BAO JIE
3
SECOND RING ROAD
DONGDAQIAO LU
DONG ZONGBU HUTONG
GUANGHUA LU
XIUSHUI BEI JIE
GUANGHUA LU
Dongdan
Jianguo Men
JIANGUO MEN NEI DAJIE
JIANGUO MEN WAI DAJIE
Yongan Li
Guomao
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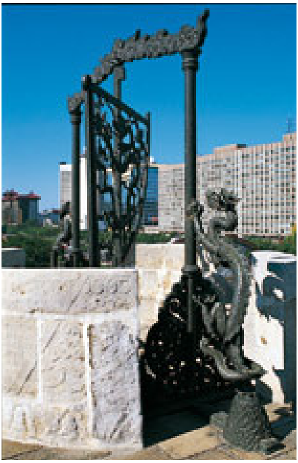
1000 yards 0 metres 1000

Ri Tan Park

Distances in eastern Beijing are considerable and it may be preferable to take taxis between some of the sights



Ancient Observatory

1 Ancient Observatory

Dating to 1442, Beijing's observatory is one of the oldest in the world. In fact, there was an even earlier Yuan-dynasty (1279–1368) observatory also located on this site but no trace of that remains. Today, a collection of reproduction astronomical devices lies in the courtyard, some decorated with fantastic Chinese designs. There are more impressive instruments on the roof. ✎ *Map G4 • 6524 2202 • Subway: Jianguo Men • 9am–5pm daily • ¥10*

2 Southeast Corner Watchtower

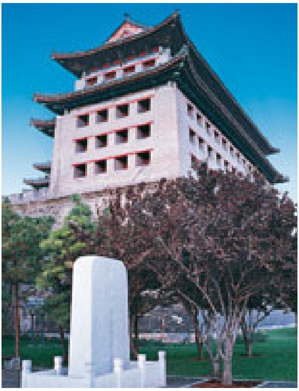
A short distance south of the Second Ring Road an imposing chunk of the old Beijing city wall survives, including an imposing 15th-century watchtower. Visitors can climb onto the battlements and walk along a short stretch of wall. The tower is also home to the commercial Red Gate Gallery *(see p49)*. ✎ *South of Jianguo Men Nei Dajie • Map G5 • 6527 0574 • Subway: Jianguo Men • 8am–5:30pm daily • ¥10*

3 Ri Tan Park

One of the city's oldest parks, Ri Tan was laid out around a sacrificial altar back in the 16th century. The round altar remains, ringed by a circular wall, but this is very much a living park, filled daily with people walking and exercising. Being at the heart of the embassy district, the park is well tended and surrounded by lots of good restaurants and cafés. ✎ *Guanghua Lu • Map G4 • 8561 4261 • Subway: Jianguo Men • 6:30am–9:30pm daily*

4 SOHO

Beijing's own SOHO (it stands for Small Office, Home Office) is a high-rise complex of residential and commercial property in the city's rapidly developing Central Business District. It represents a new form of Chinese design, somewhere between Scandinavian modern and Ming minimalism. Visit to see what some believe represents the future of Beijing, also for good shopping, dining, and for the chance to meet real Chinese yuppies. ✎ *South of Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map H4 • Subway: Guomao*



Southeast Corner Watchtower

➔ *For more modern architecture in eastern Beijing* **See pp40–41**

Altared city

Ri Tan Park's Altar of the Sun is one of eight such cosmologically aligned structures, along with the Altar of Heaven (Tian Tan; *see pp12–13*), the Altar of Agriculture (Xiannong Tan; now part of the Ancient Architecture Museum; *see p74*), the Altar of the Moon in the west of the city, the Altar of the Earth (Di Tan, *see p81*), the Altar of the Country in Zhong Shan Park, the Altar of the Silkworm in Bei Hai Park, and the lost Altar of the Gods of Heaven.

5 Dong Yue Miao

This colorful and active temple, dating to the early 14th century, was restored in 1999 and is tended by Daoist monks. The main courtyard leads into the Hall of Tai Shan with statues of gods and their attendants. Tai Shan is another name for Dong Yue, in Daoist lore the Eastern peak to which the spirits of the dead travel.

⊘ 141 Chaoyang Men Wai Dajie • Map G3 • 6551 0151 • Subway: Chaoyang Men • 8:30am–4:30pm Tues–Sun • ¥10

Dong Yue Miao

6 Blue Zoo Beijing

Not a zoo at all, but an excellent modern aquarium, reckoned to be the best of its kind in Asia. The main attraction is a central tank holding literally thousands of fish, plus there are also 18 additional tanks with specifically themed displays *(see p53)*.

⊘ South gate of Workers' Stadium • Map G3 • 6591 3397 ext. 1560 • Subway: Chaoyang Men • 8am–8pm daily • ¥75; children ¥50; under 3 ft (1 m) free • www.blue-zoo.com

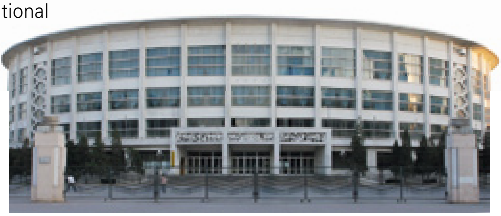
7 Workers' Stadium

With an estimated capacity of 72,000, the stadium is home to Beijing's premier football club, Hyundai Guo'an, and it is the city's main venue for large-scale rock and pop concerts. Perplexingly, it's also a hub of Beijing nightlife, with numerous clubs and bars clustered around its north and west gates, and some very good restaurants too *(see p89)*. Even oldies get in on the act, with mass open-air dancing taking place on the forecourt of the north gate most summer evenings.

⊘ Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu • Map G2 • 6501 2372 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao

8 Sanlitun

Beijing's main expat-friendly boozing district, Sanlitun is famed for its "Bar Street", more properly known as Sanlitun Bei Lu. It also has the highest concentration of decent international restaurants *(see p89)* and lots of boutique shopping *(see p88)*. Streets around here, although modern, are at least tree-lined and, with plenty of cafés for refreshment stops, it's a pleasant district in which to wander. *⊘ Map H2 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao*



Entrance gate at the Workers' Stadium

Sanlitun's Na Li Market

9 Ghost Street

Gui Jie, or Ghost Street, is a mile-and-a-quarter (2-km) stretch of Dong Zhi Men Nei Dajie that come nightfall is jammed with cars double-parked outside its string of around one hundred or so restaurants, many of which open 24 hours. The roadside is all festively lit with strings of red lanterns bobbing in the breeze, while most establishments favor corny, old-China décor with lots of red lacquer and pagoda motifs, and waitresses in silk tunics. This is the home of hotpot, although all regional Chinese cuisines are represented here.
✎ *Map F2 • Subway: Dong Zhi Men*

10 Lufthansa Center

This glossy mall-style development caters for aspirational Beijingers with a department store full of imported luxury goods, a basement Continental deli, and a BMW showroom. More down to earth, just west on the south bank of the river is the Liang Ma Flower Market, which is a riot of color and fragrances. ✎ *50 Liang Ma Qiao Lu • Map H1 • 6465 1188 • Subway: Dong Zhi Men • Open 9am–10pm daily*

A Walk From Ri Tan Park to Sanlitun

Morning

The American-style diner **Steak and Eggs** (5 Xiushui Jie), which is behind the Friendship Store, opens for pancake-platter breakfasts at 7:30am. Well fed, head north up embassy-lined Jianhua Lu to enter **Ri Tan Park** via the south gate. This is one of the city's best parks, with an old sacrificial altar, a rockery, and a small lake with the waterside **Stone Boat** café. Exit via the west gate onto Ritan Lu, which is lined by shops with signs in Cyrillic. This area is **Yabao Lu**, Beijing's Russian neighborhood. Walk north to **Aliens Street Market**, a two-story jumble of cheap clothing, shoes, and cosmetics. Continue on to the next major junction and turn right on to busy Chaoyang Men Wai Dajie, lined with malls and the **Dong Yue Miao** temple.

Afternoon

Departing the temple, turn left and then take the second left into Gongren Lu. This takes you up to a park with a lake and then the **Workers' Stadium**. Circle the stadium to exit via the north gate onto Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu. Head east until you come to a foot bridge, which allows you to cross this eight-lane boulevard safely. It deposits you in front of **Yaxiu Market** for more bargain shopping. Continue east until Sanlitun Bei Lu, the heart of the city's entertainment district: bars **The Tree** *(see p63)* and **Bookworm** *(see p61)*, plus restaurant **Alameda** *(see p89)* are all just a few minute's walk from here.

Left **Sunglasses at the Silk Market** Center **Boots at Yaxiu Market** Right **Na Li Market**

TOP 10 Shops, Markets, and Malls

1 Silk Market

It can't last, but for the time being this four-story indoor market remains the lodestone for counterfeit designer goods. Don't forget to haggle as if your life depended on it *(see p50)*. ✎ *Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map G4*

2 Yaxiu Market

Similar to the Silk Market, but significantly less crowded *(see p50)*. ✎ *58 Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu • Map H2 • 6415 1726*

3 China World Shopping Mall

The Silk Market and Yaxiu Market sell the counterfeits, but this is where you come for the originals *(see p51)*. ✎ *1 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map H4*

4 Na Li Market

A small dead-end lane off the southern end of Bar Street with a string of small clothing and jewlery boutiques that mix fakes with one-offs by young, local designers. Hip, but also reasonably priced. ✎ *Sanlitun Bei Lu • Map H2*

5 Friendship Store

Once upon a time this was officially the only store tourists could visit. Now it's the last place you'd want to shop; it's overpriced and has notoriously unhelpful staff. Visit instead for a glimpse of how shopping in Beijing was in the good old bad old days. ✎ *17 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map G4 • 6500 3311*

6 Dong Jiao Wholesale Market

This is where the traders from Beijing's other markets come to buy their stock *(see p51)*. ✎ *Dong Si Huan Zhong Lu • Map G4*

7 Ri Tan Office Building

A former office building on the south side of Ri Tan Park, now a warren of small, independent boutiques. ✎ *15A Guanghua Lu • Map G4 • 8561 9556*

8 Aliens Street Market

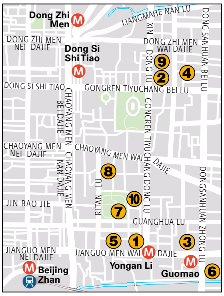
Another in the same mold as the Silk Market, but with a pronounced Slavic twist *(see p51)*. ✎ *Yabao Lu • Map G3*

9 Tong Li Studios

Four floors of independent designer clothing and decorative arts stores, plus jewelry and hip cafés, and up on the top floor a couple of lively bars. One block west of Bar Street. ✎ *Sanlitun Bei Lu • Map H2*

10 Jenny Lou's

Expat heaven with genuine Dutch cheese, German sausage, French wines, and such like. ✎ *4 Ri Tan Bei Lu • Map G3 • 8563 0626*


Dong Zhi Men
LIANGMAHE NAN LU
DONG ZHI MEN NEI DAJIE
Dong Si Shi Tiao
DONG ZHI MEN WAI DAJIE
XIN DONG LU
DONG SAN HUAN BEI LU
DONG SI SHI TIAO
GONGREN TIYUCHANG BEI LU
CHAOYANG MEN BEI DAJIE
GONGREN TIYUCHANG DONG LU
CHAOYANG MEN NEI DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN WAI DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN NAN DAJIE
RITAN LU
DONGSANHUAN ZHONG LU
JIN BAO JIE
GUANGHUA LU
JIANGUO MEN NEI DAJIE
JIANGUO MEN WAI DAJIE
Beijing Zhan
Yongan Li
Guomao
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Most shops, markets, and malls tend to be open approximately 9am–9pm daily. For shopping tips **See p111**

Above **Hatsune**

Price Categories

For the equivalent of a meal for two made up of a range of dishes, served with tea, and including service.

¥	under ¥100
¥¥	¥100–¥250
¥¥¥	¥250–¥500
¥¥¥¥	over ¥500

Top 10 Restaurants

1 Beijing Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant

It is the opinion of a great many Beijingers that there is no finer duck than that served here *(see p58)*. *✎ Bdg 3, Tuanjiehu Beikou, Dong San Huan • Map H2 • 6582 2892 • ¥*

2 Three Guizhou Men

Test your taste buds on the likes of sour fish soup and a startling take on ribs and mashed potato *(see p58)*. *✎ 6 Guanghua Xili • Map G4 • 6502 1733 • ¥*

3 Afunti

A Xinjiang restaurant, which means lamb kabobs, flat breads, plus live bands and the inevitable audience participation. It may be touristy but it's fun *(see p59)*. *✎ 188 Denei Dajie, Chaoyang Men Nei Dajie • Map F3 • 6527 2288 • ¥¥*

4 Bellagio

Packed until the early hours with hip Beijingers filling up on carbs before moving on to one of the clubs up the street *(see p58)*. *✎ 6 Gongren Tiyuchang Xi Lu • Map G2 • 6551 3533 • ¥¥*

5 Guizhou Luo Luo Suan Tang Yu

"Ghost Street" is a fun place to dine, and this hotpot specialist is one of its best eateries *(see p58)*. *✎ 186 Dong Zhi Men Nei Dajie • Map F2 • 6405 1717 • ¥¥*

6 Alameda

Beautiful modern restaurant serving Brazilian-inspired contemporary cuisine *(see p60)*. *✎ Na Li Market, off Sanlitun Bei Lu • Map H2 • 6417 8084 • ¥¥¥*

7 Hatsune

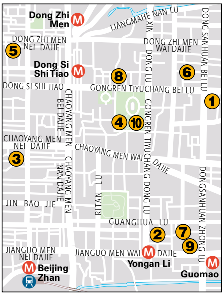
A class act: stylish Japanese restaurant with fresh fish flown in daily *(see p60)*. *✎ 2nd floor, Heqiao Building C, 8a Guanghua Dong Lu • Map H4 • 6581 3939 • ¥¥¥*

8 Morel's

Beijing's sole Belgian restaurant is a big expat favorite for steak and seafood, including, of course, mussels, as well as a great range of Belgian beers *(see p61)*. *✎ Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu, Chunxiu Lu • Map G2 • 6416 8802 • ¥¥¥*

9 Aria

The Continental-Asian fusion cuisine here constitutes possibly the most satisfying dining experience in Beijing *(see p60)*. *✎ China World Hotel, 1 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map H4 • 6505 2266 • ¥¥¥¥*


Dong Zhi Men
LIANGMAHE NAN LU
DONG ZHI MEN NEI DAJIE
DONG ZHI MEN WAI DAJIE
XIN DONG LU
DONG SANHUAN BEI LU
Dong Si Shi Tiao
DONG SI SHI TIAO
GONGREN TIYUCHANG BEI LU
CHAOYANG MEN BEI DAJIE
GONGREN TIYUCHANG DONG LU
CHAOYANG MEN NEI DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN WAI DAJIE
CHAOYANG MEN NAN DAJIE
RITAN LU
DONGSANHUAN ZHONG LU
JIN BAO JIE
GUANGHUA LU
JIANGUO MEN NEI DAJIE
JIANGUO MEN WAI DAJIE
Yongan Li
Beijing Zhan
Guomao
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10 Green T. House

Gimmick or culinary wonder? Make your own mind up, but certainly take a look at Beijing's most jaw-dropping, China-meets-Alice-in-Wonderland interior *(see p60)*. *✎ 6 Gongren Tiyuchang Xi Lu • Map G2 • 6552 8311 • ¥¥¥¥*

Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open for lunch and dinner. Only top-end places accept credit cards

Left **Chinese Military History Museum** Right **Beijing Aquarium**

Western Beijing

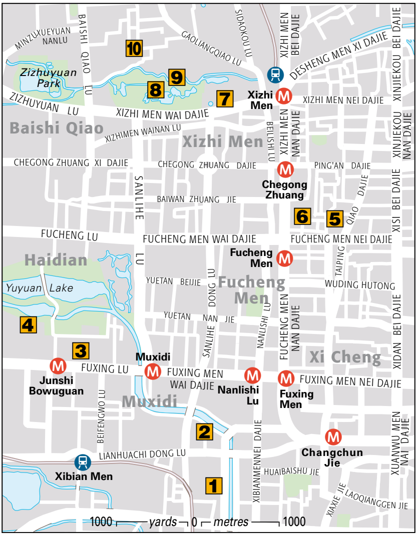
Xicheng, which in Chinese means "West City", *is the central district west of the Forbidden City and the lakes. It's an area that lacks any great landmarks, and neither is it pedestrian-friendly in the way that Hou Hai or the Sanlitun areas are. It is best experienced as a series of half-day expeditions: a visit to the Military Museum with a look at the Millennium Monument afterwards and a walk through Yuyuan Tan Park, or a trip to the zoo and aquarium followed by the Temple of the Five Pagodas. Expect to make liberal use of taxis and the subway.*

Temple of the Five Pagodas

Millennium Monument

TOP 10 Sights

1. Temple of Heavenly Tranquility
2. White Clouds Temple
3. Chinese Military History Museum
4. Millennium Monument
5. Miaoying Temple White Dagoba
6. Lu Xun Museum
7. Beijing Exhibition Hall
8. Beijing Zoo
9. Beijing Aquarium
10. Temple of the Five Pagodas


MINZUXUEYUAN NANLU
BAISHI QIAO LU
10
GAOLIANGQIAO LU
SIDAOKOU LU
XIZHI MEN BEI DAJIE
DESHENG MEN XI DAJIE
XINJIEKOU BEI DAJIE
Zizhuyuan Park
9
8
7
Xizhi Men
XIZHI MEN NEI DAJIE
ZIZHUYUAN LU
XIZHI MEN WAI DAJIE
Baishi Qiao
XIZHIMEN WAINAN LU
Xizhi Men
BEILISHI LU
XIZHI MEN NAN DAJIE
XINJIEKOU NAN DAJIE
CHEGONG ZHUANG XI DAJIE
CHEGONG ZHUANG DAJIE
PING'AN DAJIE
SANLIHE LU
BAIWAN ZHUANG JIE
Chegong Zhuang
6
5
QIAO
XISI BEI DAJIE
FUCHENG LU
FUCHENG MEN WAI DAJIE
FUCHENG MEN NEI DAJIE
Haidian
Fucheng Men
TAIPING
Yuyuan Lake
YUETAN BEIJIE
DONG LU
Fucheng Men
WUDING HUTONG
YUETAN NAN JIE
NANLISHI LU
SANLIHE
4
FUCHENG MEN NAN DAJIE
XIDAN BEI DAJIE
3
Xi Cheng
Muxidi
Junshi Bowuguan
FUXING LU
FUXING MEN WAI DAJIE
Nanlishi Lu
Fuxing Men
FUXING MEN NEI DAJIE
Muxidi
BEIFENGWO LU
2
XIBIANMENNEI DAJIE
Changchun Jie
XUANWU MEN NAI DAJIE
LIANHUACHI DONG LU
Xibian Men
HUAIBAISHU JIE
1
XIAXIE JIE
LAOQIANGGEN JIE
1000 yards 0 metres 1000

Temple of Heavenly Tranquility

1 Temple of Heavenly Tranquility

Home to Beijing's most striking pagoda, the temple (Tianning Si) was built during the 5th century AD, making it one of the city's oldest. The 196-ft (60-m) octagonal pagoda was added in the early 12th century. The bottom of the pagoda is in the form of a huge pedestal decorated with carved arch patterns, symbolizing Sumeru, the mountain of the gods. Above are thirteen levels of eaves, very close together, with no doors or windows – the pagoda is without stairs inside or outside and is, in fact, solid. ⊘ *Guanng'an Men Nanbinhe Lu • Map B5 • Subway: Nanlishi Lu, then taxi*

2 White Clouds Temple

The first temple on this site was founded in AD 739 and burnt down in 1166. Since that time, it has been repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt. It even survived being used as a factory during the Cultural Revolution. The shrines, pavilions, and courtyards that make up the compound today date mainly from the Ming and Qing dynasties. Monks here are followers of Daoism and sport distinctive top-knots. Each Chinese New Year this is the venue for one of the city's most popular temple fairs, with performers, artisans, and traders. ⊘ *6 Baiyun Guan Jie, off Lianhuachi Dong Lu • Map B4 • 6340 4812 • Subway: Nanlishi Lu • 8:30am–4:30pm daily • ¥10*

3 Chinese Military History Museum

Vast halls of Cold War-era hardware including lots of silvery fighter planes and tanks fill the ground floor. Upstairs has exhibitions on historic conflicts, including the Opium Wars and Boxer Rebellion. Unfortunately, there is little labeling in English. What is not mentioned is that the museum is close to the Muxidi intersection, scene of a massacre of civilians by the Chinese army during the 1989 democracy protests. ⊘ *9 Fuxing Lu • Map A4 • 6686 6244 • Subway: Junshi Bowuguan • 8am–5:30pm daily • ¥5*

4 Millennium Monument

Built to welcome the year 2000, Beijing's millennial structure is a curious bit of concrete constructivism that looks like something that might have adorned Moscow back in the 1920s. It is fashioned to resemble a giant tilted sundial. Inside is a plaza with the "Holy Fire of China" (a flame fed on natural gas), plus several exhibition halls. ⊘ *9 Yuyuan Tan Nan Lu • Map A4 • 6686 6244 • Subway: Junshi Bowuguan • 8:30am–4:30pm daily*

Gateway at the White Clouds Temple

There are few good restaurants in Western Beijing but Hou Hai, with its excellent dining, is only a short taxi ride away **See p83**

Buddhism in China

Buddhism, which started in India, probably came to China along the Silk Route. The earliest sign of the religion is associated with the founding of the White Horse Temple near the old capital of Luoyang in AD 68. Buddhism surged in popularity during periods of instability, when Confucianism's veneration for authority did not sit well with the populace. It was eventually adopted by China's rulers.

Miaoying Temple White Dagoba monks

5 Miaoying Temple White Dagoba

Celebrated for its Tibetan-styled, 167-ft (51-m) white *dagoba* (stupa), said to have been designed by a Nepalese architect, the temple dates to 1271, when Beijing was under Mongol rule. The temple is also noted for its fascinating collection of thousands of Tibetan Buddhist statues. *171 Fucheng Men Nei Dajie • Map C3 • 6616 0211 • Subway: Fucheng Men • 9am–4pm daily • ¥10*

6 Lu Xun Museum

Lu Xun is regarded as the father of modern Chinese literature, responsible for ground-breaking works such as "Diary of a Madman" and "The True Story of Ah Q". This is the house in which he lived from 1924 to 1926. The rooms display artifacts relating to his life and there's also an adjacent exhibition hall with more than 10,000 letters, journals, photographs, and other personal objects. *19 Gong Men Kou Er Tiao, off Fucheng Men Nei Dajie • Map C3 • 6616 4168 • Subway: Fucheng Men • 9am–4pm Tues–Sun*

7 Beijing Exhibition Hall

A monument to the one-time ideological union between China and the USSR, the hall is a Muscovite-styled period piece (built 1954) fronted by a red-star-topped spire. Although not generally open to the public you can usually access the entrance lobby, which is festooned with massive crystal chandeliers. *138 Xizhi Men Wai Dajie • Map B2 • 6831 2517 • Subway: Xizhi Men*

8 Beijing Zoo

Visit for the pandas, the famously rare bears that are native to China and nowhere else. The zoo has several, housed in a new "panda house." However, most of the other 2,000 animals here are not so lucky; their cages are tiny. *137 Xizhi Men Wai Dajie • Map B2 • 6831 4411 • Subway: Xizhi Men • 7:30am–5:30pm daily • ¥10, pandas ¥5 extra*

9 Beijing Aquarium

Located in the northeastern corner of the zoo is this new and very impressive addition. It's reputedly the largest inland aquarium in the world, with massive tanks containing thousands of weird and wonderful fish, plus a shark tank, coral reefs and an "Amazon rainforest." There are also several dolphin and seal shows held

Beijing Aquarium

throughout the day. ⊘ *108 Gao Liang Qiao Xijie • Map B2 • 6217 6655 • 9am–5pm daily • ¥100 adults, ¥50 children • www.bj-sea.com*

10 Temple of the Five Pagodas

Just north of the zoo, this temple displays obvious Indian influences. It was built in the early 15th century in honor of an Indian monk who came to China and presented the emperor with five golden Buddhas. The pagodas sport elaborate carvings of curvaceous females, as well as the customary Buddhas. Also here is the Beijing Art Museum of Stone Carvings, with 2,000 decorative stelae. ⊘ *24 Wuta Si Cun • Map B1 • 6217 3836 • Subway: Xizhi Men • 9am–4pm Mon–Sun • ¥10*

Temple of the Five Pagodas

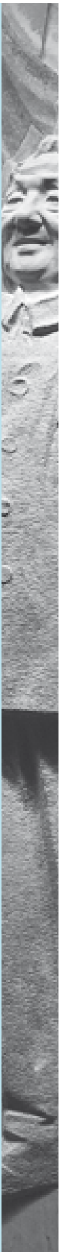
War and peace

Morning

Even if you're no big fan of mechanized heavy armor, the **Chinese Military History Museum** is a fascinating place to spend a morning. Exhibits begin with the technology that made China one of the world's first military superpowers, including the "Flying Dragon," an early form of missile launcher. There's one room devoted to the wonderfully tacky gifts that have been bestowed on China's army chiefs and leaders, such as a pistol presented to Chairman Mao by Fidel Castro. Mao's limousine is displayed on the ground floor and there's one hall devoted to statues and assorted representations of the Communist Party's great and good. It all makes for a fascinating insight into the mentality of late 20th-century China.

Afternoon

Leaving the museum, turn right and walk west along Fuxing Lu and take the first right; this will bring you to the **Millennium Monument** *(see p91)*. One of the oddest bits of architecture in Beijing, the Monument nevertheless plays an active role in the city's cultural life; its various halls are used for all kinds of temporary exhibitions. There is almost always something worth seeing. Afterwards, for some refreshment, walk east to the very pleasant **Hong Hao Ge Teahouse** *(see p59)*. North of the teahouse stretches the vast and very green **Yuyuan Tan Park**, with a large lake at its center. It makes for a relaxing place to stroll.



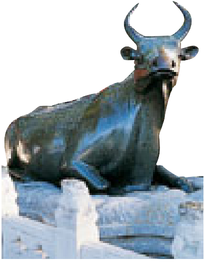
Left **Marble Boat, Summer Palace** Right **798 Art District**

Greater Beijing

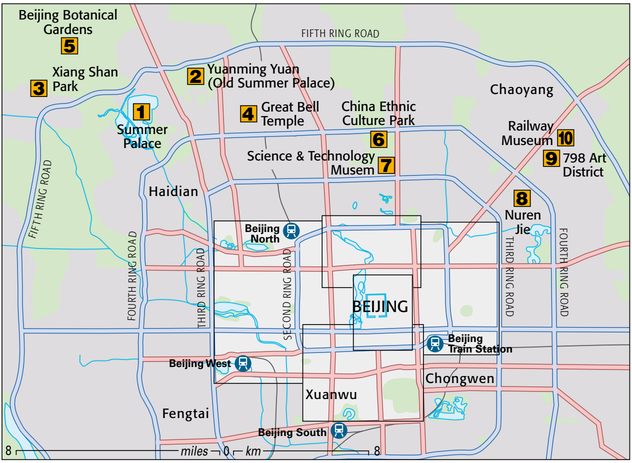
BEIJING IS VAST. *Although you could spend all your time without ever straying too far from the area around central Tian'an Men Square, you would be missing out on a lot. Way out in the northwest of the city is a cluster of sights that includes the unmissable Summer Palace, with the almost equally intoxicating hillside Xiang Shan Park and the haunting ruins of the Yuanming Yuan, or Old Summer Palace, close by. It might be a squeeze to get all three into one day's sightseeing but it's worth a try. For fans of contemporary urban culture, the 798 Art District in the northeast of the city is an absolute must, and you can drop in on the markets and bars of Nuren Jie on the way back into town.*

TOP 10 Sights

1. **Summer Palace**
2. **Yuanming Yuan (Old Summer Palace)**
3. **Xiang Shan Park**
4. **Great Bell Temple**
5. **Beijing Botanical Gardens**
6. **China Ethnic Culture Park**
7. **Science and Technology Museum**
8. **Nuren Jie**
9. **798 Art District**
10. **Railway Museum**



Bronze ox, Summer Palace


Beijing Botanical Gardens
5
FIFTH RING ROAD
Xiang Shan Park
3
2
Yuanming Yuan (Old Summer Palace)
Chaoyang
1
Summer Palace
4
Great Bell Temple
China Ethnic Culture Park
6
Railway Museum
10
9
798 Art District
Science & Technology Musem
7
FIFTH RING ROAD
Haidian
8
Nuren Jie
Beijing North
FOURTH RING ROAD
THIRD RING ROAD
SECOND RING ROAD
THIRD RING ROAD
FOURTH RING ROAD
BEIJING
Beijing Train Station
Beijing West
Chongwen
Xuanwu
Fengtai
Beijing South
8
miles
0
km
8

Long Corridor ceiling, Summer Palace

1 Summer Palace

It's a long 45-minute taxi ride from central Beijing to the Summer Palace, but it is a sight that should not be missed. The grounds are arranged as a microcosm of nature, with hills and water complemented by bridges, temples and walkways. It manages to be both fanciful and harmonious at the same time *(see pp18–19)*.

Guardian deity, Heng

2 Yuanming Yuan (Old Summer Palace)

The name Yuanming Yuan derives from a Buddhist term and can be translated as "Garden of Perfect Brightness". This was the largest and most elaborate of all the summer palaces of the Qing era. It once contained private imperial residences, pleasure pavilions, Buddhist temples, a vast imperial ancestral shrine, pools for goldfish, and canals and lakes for pleasure boating. The Qianlong emperor even added a group of European-style palaces designed by Jesuit missionary-artists serving in the Qing court. Today, all that's left are graceful, fragmentary ruins after the complex was razed to the ground during the Second Opium War (1856–1860). A small museum displays images and models of the place as it was. ✎ *28 Qinghua Xi Lu • 6262 8501 • Subway: Xizhi Men, then bus 375 • 7am–7pm daily • ¥10*

3 Xiang Shan Park

The wooded parkland area, also known as Fragrant Hills Park, is 2 miles (3 km) west of the Summer Palace. It boasts fine views from Incense Burner Peak, which is accessible by a chair lift (¥30). Close to the park's main gate is the Azure Clouds Temple (Biyun Si), guarded by the menacing deities Heng and Ha in the Mountain Gate Hall. A series of farther halls leads to the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, where the revolutionary leader's coffin was stored in 1925, before being taken to his final resting place in Nanjing. ✎ *Wofosi Lu • 6259 1155 • 333 from Summer Palace, 360 from Beijing Zoo • 6am–7pm daily • ¥5; Azure Clouds Temple ¥10*

Yuanming Yuan (Summer Palace)

4 Great Bell Temple

The 18th-century Da Zhong Si follows a typical Buddhist plan, with a Heavenly Kings Hall, Main Hall, and a Guanyin Bodhisattva Hall. What distinguishes it, though, is the 46.5 ton (47, 250 kg) bell – one of the world's largest – that is housed in the rear tower. The bell was cast between 1403 and 1424 and Buddhist *sutras* in Chinese and Sanskrit cover its surface. Hundreds more bells can be seen in another hall on the west side of the complex. *⊗ 31A Beisanhuan Xi Lu • Map B1 • 6254 1971 • Bus: 300, 367 • 8:30am–4pm daily • ¥10*

5 Beijing Botanical Gardens

About a mile (2 km) northeast of Xiang Shan Park lie these pretty gardens, containing some 3,000 plant species and some pleasant walks. The garden's Sleeping Buddha Temple (Wofo Si) is renowned for its magnificent 15-ft (5-m) bronze statue of a reclining Buddha. China's last emperor, Pu Yi *(see p9)*, ended his days here as a gardener. *⊗ 6259 1283 • 333 from Summer Palace, 360 from Beijing Zoo • 6am–7pm daily • ¥5*

6 China Ethnic Culture Park

A theme park devoted to all 55 of China's ethnic minorities *(see box)*, the complex is crammed with a weird and wonderful array of buildings such as the distinctive circular dwellings of the southern Hakka people, some of which are full-size replicas, while others are scale models. There is also a Chinese Song and Dance Theatre featuring daily performances by ethnic representatives in full costume. If you aren't going to be traveling around the country, this is a fine way to get an idea of the diversity of China. *⊗ 1 Minzu Yuan Lu • Map E1 • 6206 3640 • Subway: Gan Yang Shu • 8am–6pm daily • ¥60*

China's Peoples

There are about 55 different ethnic minorities in China, each with their own distinctive customs and, in may cases, languages. Though rich in culture, and varied, together they make up only seven percent of the population, with the main group, known as Han Chinese, accounting for the rest.

China Ethnic Culture Park

7 Science and Technology Museum

Exhibits begin with ancient science, highlighting China's "technological pre-eminence in history." The technology comes up to date with Chinese space capsules, robots, and an Astro-vision Theater incorporating state-of-the-art cinematography. Although this museum opened only in 1988, a new science museum is already under construction and is due to open in time for the 2008 Olympics. *⊗ 1 Beisanhuan Zhong Lu • Map E1 • 6237 1177 • 9am–4:30pm Tue–Sat • ¥30*

8 Nuren Jie

"Women's Street" is a relatively undeveloped area just north of the Lufthansa Center *(see p87)* and Kempinski Hotel, between the Third and Fourth

Ring Roads. It's where to shop for flowers and tropical fish at the Lai Tai Market *(see p51)* and for cheap mobiles at the Grand World Electrical Market *(see p51)*. There's also a lively nightlife street here, home to the New Get Lucky music bar *(see p63)* among others. ✎ *Off Xiaoyun Lu • Map H1*

9 798 Art District

Although it's called the 798 Art District, Factory number 798 is only one of a number of former industrial units that have been taken over by artists and galleries to form what is often referred to as Beijing's answer to New York's Meatpacking District *(see pp24–5)*.

10 China Railway Museum

The last passenger steam services in China came to an end in 2006, but a short taxi ride northeast of the 798 Art District is this new museum with a sizeable collection of old locomotives. Some of the cabs can be boarded. An exhibition on the history of China's railways is promised and some of the machines will occasionally be in steam. In the meantime, the engines are a must for small boys of all ages. ✎ *1 Jiuxian Qiao Bei Lu • Map H1 • 6438 1317 • 9am–4pm Tue–Sun • ¥20*

China Railway Museum

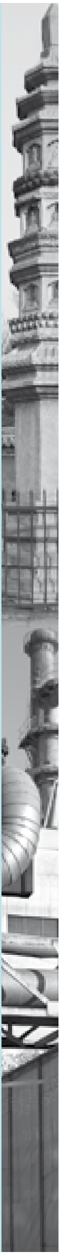
Green Beijing

Morning

🕘 Be at the East Gate (Dong Men) of the **Summer Palace** for 8:30am to beat both the heat (if you are visiting in summer) and the crowds. Make your way along the north shore of Kunming Lake via the **Long Corridor** and ascend **Longevity Hill**. Descend again to the Marble Boat and take a pleasure cruiser across the lake to **South Lake Island**. Cross back to the mainland via the supremely elegant **Seventeen-arch Bridge**; from here it's a short walk north to exit where you came in at the East Gate. In the car park pick up a taxi and instruct the driver to take you to **Xiang Shan Gongyuan**, otherwise known as Fragrant Hills Park. Before you enter, 🍴 **Sculpting In Time** is a café near the East Gate that does good salads, pastas, and pizza.

Afternoon

From the park's East Gate turn right for the **Temple of Brilliance**, built in 1780 and ransacked by Western troops in 1860 and 1900. Close by is the **Liuli Pagoda**, with bells hanging from its eaves that chime in the breeze. Continue north to pass between two small round lakes linked by a small hump-backed bridge – the whole known as the **Spectacles Lakes**. Beyond is a **chair lift** that takes you up to the top of the "Fragrant Hill". Zigzag back down past many more pavilions to arrive at the ☕ **Fragrant Hills Hotel**, designed by Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei, otherwise best known for his glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.



Left **Marco Polo Bridge** Right **Great Palace Gate, Ming Tombs**

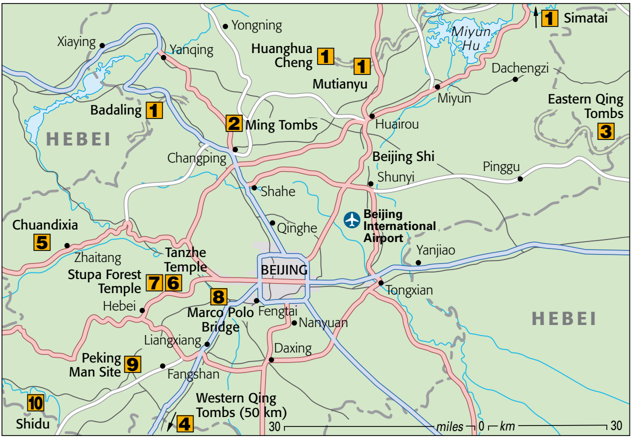
Trips Out of Town

BEIJING HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH SIGHTS *to keep the average visitor busy, but after traveling all this way, it would be a shame not to grasp the opportunity to get out of the city. Of course, the Great Wall is an absolute must, but not far from the city are also ancient temples nestled on green hillsides and the vast necropolises of the Ming and Qing emperors. To the southwest is the 300-year-old stone Marco Polo Bridge and neighboring Wanping, a rare surviving example of a walled city. Both are an easy suburban bus ride from the city. Otherwise, most Beijing hotels organize tours to these sights.*

Spirit Way at the Ming Tombs

TOP 10 Sights

1. **Great Wall**
2. **Ming Tombs**
3. **Eastern Qing Tombs**
4. **Western Qing Tombs**
5. **Chuandixia**
6. **Tanzhe Temple**
7. **Stupa Forest Temple**
8. **Marco Polo Bridge**
9. **Peking Man Site**
10. **Shidu**



Yongning
1 Simatai
Xiaying
Yanqing
Huanghua Cheng 1
1 Mutianyu
Miyun Hu
Dachengzi
Miyun
Eastern Qing Tombs 3
Badaling 1
2 Ming Tombs
Huairou
HEBEI
Changping
Beijing Shi
Shunyi
Pinggu
Shahe
Qinghe
Beijing International Airport
Chuandixia 5
Zhaitang
Tanzhe Temple
Yanjiao
Stupa Forest Temple 7 6
BEIJING
Tongxian
Hebei
8 Marco Polo Bridge
Fengtai
Nanyuan
HEBEI
Liangxiang
Daxing
Peking Man Site 9
Fangshan
10 Shidu
4 Western Qing Tombs (50 km)
30 miles 0 km 30

The Great Wall, snaking over high ridges north of Beijing

1 Great Wall

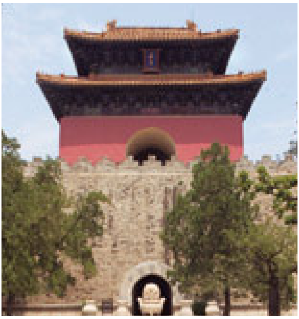
A visit to the wall is an absolute must. The closest section to Beijing is at Badaling, and you can get there and back in half a day. However, if you suspect that your appreciation of this matchless monument would be improved by the absence of coach-loads of fellow tourists, then considering traveling that little bit farther to the sites at Mutianyu, Huanghua Cheng, and Simatai *(see pp28–9)*.

2 Ming Tombs

The Ming Tombs are the resting place for 13 of the 16 Ming emperors. These are Confucian shrines and follow a standard layout of a main gate leading to a series of courtyards and a main hall, with a "soul tower" and burial mound beyond. The tombs are not as colorful and elaborate as Buddhist and Daoist structures, and only three have been restored and are open to the public, however the necropolis is definitely a worthwhile stop-off as part of an excursion to the Great Wall *(see pp26–7)*.

3 Eastern Qing Tombs

The remoteness of the Eastern Qing Tombs, over the border in Hebei province, makes them far less popular than their Ming counterparts, despite the fact that the setting is even more splendid. In fact, the Eastern Qing Tombs make up the largest and most complete imperial cemetery in China, built on a scale as grand as the Forbidden City. Of the many tombs here, only five are the burial places of Qing emperors, but there are also 14 empresses, and 136 imperial consorts. Notable are the tomb of the Qianlong Emperor, with an incredible tomb chamber adorned with Buddhist carvings, and the lavish tomb of the devious Empress Cixi *(see p23)*. *✎ 77 miles (125 km) E of Beijing, Zuahua County, Hebei Province • May–Oct 8am–5:30pm daily; Nov–Apr 9am–4:30pm daily*



Spirit Tower, Ming Tombs

Most sights outside of Beijing have little to offer in the way of dining options, so it's wise to pack your own food

Marco Polo

Whether Venetian trader and explorer Marco Polo (1254–1324) ever visited China is much disputed. The book he dictated to a ghost writer, who embroidered it substantially, describes aspects of Far Eastern life in much detail, including paper money, the Grand Canal, the structure of a Mongol army, tigers, and the bridge that now bears his name. *The Travels of Marco Polo*, however, may be based on earlier journeys by his father and uncles, and stories from Arab Silk Road merchants.

4 Western Qing Tombs

If few tourists ever visit the Eastern Qing Tombs, fewer still make it out here to their equally distant western counterparts. Again, this is another vast burial complex comprising over 70 tombs in all, set in spectacular surroundings. Tombs include those of the emperors Daoguang, Guangxu, Jiaqing, and Yongzheng (r. 1723–35). It was the latter who founded this particular necropolis, perhaps because he could not bear to be buried beside his father, whose will he had thwarted when he seized the throne from his brother, the nominated heir. Also here, in a nearby commercial cemetery, are the remains of Pu Yi, the last emperor of China *(see p9)*. *✎ 68 miles (110 km) SW of Beijing, Yixian County, Hebei Province • May–Oct 8am–5:30pm daily; Nov–Apr 9am–4:30pm daily*

5 Chuandixia

Situated on a steep mountainside, Chuandixia is a crumbling but still picturesque hamlet of courtyard houses *(siheyuan)*, most dating from the Ming and Qing dynasties. An entry ticket allows access to the entire village, all of which can be explored in a few hours. The population consists of about 70 people spread over a handful of families. Accommodation with one of the families can be provided for those wanting an experience of rural hospitality. *✎ Near Zhaitang town, 56 miles (90 km) W of Beijing • Subway to Pingguo Yuan (1 hr), then taxi*

6 Tanzhe Temple

This enormous temple dates back to the 3rd century AD, when it was known as Jiafu Si. It was later renamed for the adjacent mountain, Tanzhe Shan. It has a splendid mountainside setting, and its halls rise up the steep incline. The temple is especially famous for its ancient trees. *✎ 28 miles (45 km) W of Beijing • 6086 2505 • Subway to Pingguo Yuan (1 hr), then bus 931 or tourist bus 7 • 8am–5pm daily*

7 Stupa Forest Temple

Near the parking lot for the Tanzhe Temple is this even more fascinating temple, notable

Chuandixia village

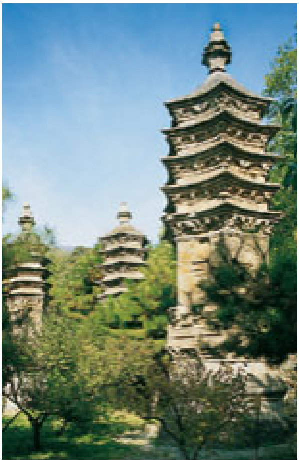
for its marvelous collection of brick stupas hidden among the foliage. Each stupa was constructed in memory of a renowned monk. The towering edifices were built in a variety of designs, and the earliest among them dates from the Jin dynasty (1115–1234). ✎ *28 miles (45 km) W of Beijing • 6086 2505 • Subway to Pingguo Yuan (1 hr), then bus 931 or tourist bus 7 • 8am–5pm daily*

8 Marco Polo Bridge

Straddling the Yongding River near Wanping town, the 876-ft (267-m) marble bridge was first built during the Jin dynasty in 1189 but was destroyed by a flood. The current structure dates to 1698. The bridge acquired its name when legendary voyager Marco Polo described it in his famous treatise *The Travels*. The balustrades along the length of the bridge are decorated by more than 400 stone lions, each one slightly different from all the others. On July 7, 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army and Nationalist Chinese soldiers exchanged fire at the bridge, an incident that led to the Japanese occupation of Beijing and war. ✎ *10 miles (16 km) SW of Beijing • Bus 339 from Beijing's Lianhuachi bus station • 7am–7pm daily*

9 Peking Man Site

In the 1920s, archeologists removed from a cave at Zhoukoudian some 40-odd fossilized bones and primitive implements, which they identified as the prehistoric remains of Peking Man. It was thought that this exciting discovery provided the much sought-after link between Neanderthals and modern humans. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, the area is geared toward specialists, although the small museum has an interesting collection of tools, and bone fragments. Peking Man himself is not here – his remains mysteriously disappeared during World War II. ✎ *30 miles (48 km) SW of Beijing • Bus 917 from Beijing's Tianqiao station to Fangshan, then taxi • 8:30am–4:30pm daily*


Stupa Forest Temple

10 Shidu

Shidu offers a fabulous escape from the commotion of urban Beijing and a chance to enjoy some stunning natural scenery. Before the new road and bridges were built, travelers had to cross the Juma River ten times as they journeyed through the gorge between Shidu and nearby Zhangfang village, hence the name Shidu, which means "Ten Crossings." Pleasant walking trails wind along the riverbank between impressive gorges and limestone formations. ✎ *62 miles (100 km) SW of Beijing • Train daily from Beijing's Yongding Men station to Shidu*

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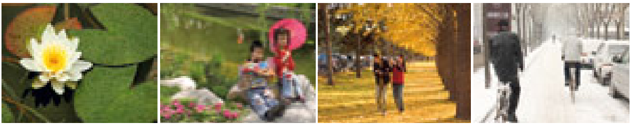


Above left to right **Spring, summer, fall, and winter in Beijing**

TOP 10 Planning Your Visit

1 When to Go

Spring and fall are the best times to visit. Summer is unbearably hot, while winter is fiercely cold and gloomy. Planning your trip to coincide with one of the major festival periods *(see pp34–5)* can lead to a colorful trip, although tourist sights will be swamped.

2 Length of Stay

You need at least four full days to take in the highlights (which would include the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, and Great Wall). This would make for an exhausting schedule and you'd still miss out on plenty. Six or seven days would allow you to experience the best of Beijing at a more comfortable pace.

3 What to Bring

November through March you need a warm jacket, gloves, sweater, thermal leggings, sturdy footwear, and lip balm. In summer, you need only loose-fitting shirts or T-shirts and thin trousers. Also bring a raincoat (it can pour down in July and August), sun hat, and reading material, as English-language books aren't easy to come by.

4 Visas and Passports

A passport, valid for at least six months, and a visa are necessary to enter China. Its embassies and consulates issue a standard single-entry, 30-day visa, although longer-stay multiple-entry visas can also be obtained.

5 Immunizations

Ensure that all of your routine vaccinations, such as tetanus, polio, and diphtheria, are up to date. It is advisable also to get vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B, typhoid, meningococcal meningitis, and cholera. Visitors traveling from yellow fever hotspots must provide proof of vaccination against the disease.

6 Customs

Visitors to China are entitled to a duty-free allowance of 2 liters of wine or spirits and 400 cigarettes. Foreign currency exceeding US$5,000, or its equivalent, must be declared. It is not advisable to take in politically controversial literature, especially if it is written in Chinese.

7 Language

The official language of China is Putonghua, known outside China as Mandarin. Putonghua is the native language of the north, but it is used across the country for communication between speakers of several other Chinese languages. English is not widely spoken outside of hotels.

8 Health Matters

Take out medical insurance before you travel. Beijing has private hospitals, but they are expensive. Pharmacies *(yaodian)*, identified by green crosses, are plentiful. They stock both Western and Chinese medicine, and can treat you for minor ailments.

9 Security

Beijing is generally safe, and foreign visitors are unlikely to be the victims of crime, apart from petty theft, and occasional scams. Friendly Chinese who suggest a chat over tea may be in cahoots with a bar or café and looking to land you with a pumped-up bill. Hotels are reliably secure, but managements don't accept responsibility should anything vanish. Be discreet when taking out your wallet and take particular care of bags, purses, and wallets at crowded tourist sites.

10 Local Prices

In general prices are cheap. Admission to most sights (the likes of the Forbidden City and Great Wall excepted) is less than a dollar. If you avoid hotel restaurants then you can eat well for under $10 a head. Taxis are cheap enough to be a viable way of getting around; expect to pay the equivalent of a dollar or two for most short trips around town.

Previous pages **Diners at a Beijing restaurant**

Above **Local newspapers and magazines**

Top 10 Sources of Information

1 Tourist Information

China has yet to realize the value of professional tourist information centers. Those in Beijing are underfunded and poorly staffed. The state-approved China International Travel Service (CITS), originally set up to cater to the needs of foreign visitors, today functions as any other local operator, offering nothing more than tours, tickets, and rented cars.

2 Websites

There are many excellent sites offering information on Beijing, and China in general. The best starting point is www.beijingpage.com, which is a gateway to many other useful sites. The official Beijing Tourism Administration site (www.bjta.gov.cn) is good for what's going on in the city.

3 Foreign Newspapers and Magazines

Foreign press is hard to come by, with just a small selection available in some of the larger hotels. You can usually get *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *International Herald Tribune*, and *Asian Wall Street Journal* – providing none of them carry articles critical of China, in which case that particular edition will not be on the shelves.

4 Local Newspapers and Magazines

The government's English-language mouthpiece is the woeful *China Daily*. More worthwhile are the many English-language magazines aimed at expats and distributed free around the city's bars and restaurants; these include *Beijing Talk*, *City Weekend*, and *that's Beijing*, all of which are published monthly.

5 English-Language TV and Radio

The state-run Chinese Central Television (CCTV) has CCTV9 as its flagship English-language station. Cable and satellite television with BBC and CNN is available in top-end hotels. The Chinese radio network, has only a few local English-language programs.

6 Guides and Maps

There are some very good maps available of Beijing but you won't find them in China. Pick them up at home before you travel. Given the amount of changes taking place, it's vital that you buy the most recent map you can find. Anything more than just two or three years old will be of little use.

7 Business Information

The first place to start is the trade section of your own embassy in Beijing. Otherwise there are several trade promotion organizations including the American Chamber of Commerce, the British Chamber of Commerce, and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

8 Olympic Games

Visit www.beijing2008.com for news and information concerning the upcoming games.

9 Background Reading: Non-fiction

Mr China by Tim Clissold is a terrific account of how to lose millions of dollars doing business with Beijing. *Mao* is Jung Chang's lacerating biography of the Great Leader, banned in China. *Foreign Babes in Beijing* by Rachel DeWoskin is the memoir of a sexually liberated American girl gatecrashing modern Chinese society.

10 Background Reading: Fiction

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie is a beautiful novella tracking the lives of two childhood friends enduring Mao's Cultural Revolution. *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang is the gripping story of three generations of women living though 20th-century China. *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* is the latest saga by Mo Yan, an epic of Chinese history, politics, hunger, religion, love, and sex.

Left **By biycle** Center **By taxi** Right **By bus**

TOP 10 Getting Around

1 Beijing Airport

On arrival visitors are given up to three forms to complete: health, immigration, and customs, all submitted to officials between the plane and the arrivals hall. Here there are ATMs, foreign exchange counters, public telephones, left-luggage services, over-priced restaurants, and a limited number of shops.

2 From the Airport into Town

There are plans to extend the subway out to the airport but for the moment taking a taxi is the easiest option. Taxis wait for passengers at a marshaled rank outside the arrivals hall. If you have a hotel booked, check whether it offers a courtesy airport pick-up.

3 Subway

The subway is a swift way to get around and to avoid Beijing's legendarily stationary traffic. The system is easy to use and fares are extremely cheap. Buy tickets at the booths near the station entrances.

4 Buses

The city bus network is extensive and cheap. Most trips within the city center require a flat flare, which is clearly posted on the side of the bus; typically ¥1 or ¥2. Air-conditioned services are usually a little more expensive. However, near-perpetual traffic jams mean journeys can often be unnecessarily lengthy. In addition, buses are almost always over-crowded and destinations are given in Chinese only.

5 Taxis

Taxis are found in large numbers and can be hailed easily in the street. Make sure the driver uses the meter, which they usually only start once the journey is actually under way – so wait a moment, then say, "Dabiao" (meter), if necessary. Few taxi drivers speak English, so have your destination written down in Chinese by your hotel staff. Fares per kilometer (half mile) are clearly posted on the side of the car; these are usually ¥1.60 or ¥2.

6 Cycling

Hiring a bicycle can be a great way to explore. Bike lanes are common and roadside repair stalls are everywhere. Beijing is flat and very cyclable, but if you are not used to cycling in heavy traffic, it can be an intimidating experience. Handy bike stands are found all over and have an attendant to watch the bikes for a modest fee.

7 Rickshaws

Bicycle rickshaws, once common in Beijing, are now relegated to the lakeside area of Hou Hai, north of the Forbidden City, where they offer tours of the old *hutongs* (alleys) to tourists. There are also rickshaws in the neighborhood of Ri Tan Park east of the center, which are used by locals to ferry them around after shopping at the area's various markets.

8 Walking

Beijing is not a great city for walking. Most streets are inhumanely wide and traffic pollution can be choking. The few exceptions include the Hou Hai area and the embassy districts of Ri Tan Park and Sanlitun. Parks such as Bei Hai, Chaoyang, Di Tan, and the Temple of Heaven Park, are also excellent places for wandering.

9 Tours

Most hotels in Beijing organize tours around the major city sights, as well as out of town to the Ming Tombs and Great Wall. Even if you are not staying at the hotel in question, they are usually only too happy to sign you up for an excursion.

10 Waterways

During the summer months tour boats ply the city's ancient canal system. From 10am to 4pm there are sailings on the hour from Yuyuan Tan Park, near the Millennium Monument *(see p91)*, and from the Beijing Exhibition Hall *(see p92)*, out to the Summer Palace.

Left **Automated tellers** Center **Sidewalk card telephones** Right **Chinese *renminbi***

TOP 10 Banking and Communications

1 Currency

China's currency is called *yuan*, also written as *renminbi* and referred to in spoken language as *kuai*. One *yuan* divides into 10 *jiao*. The most common coins include 1 *yuan*, and 5 and 1 *jiao*. Bills in circulation are 1, 2, and 5 *jiao*, and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 *yuan*.

2 Changing Money

You can exchange currency at major banks and international airports. Most decent hotels will change money, but for guests only. Exchange rates are decided centrally. Convert any left-over *renminbi* back before you leave, although usually only exchange counters at airports and ports will do this. You must present recent exchange or ATM receipts for double the amount you want to re-exchange.

3 Automated Tellers

The Automated Tellers (ATMs) that accept foreign cards are principally those belonging to the Bank of China. Occasionally (at Beijing Capital Airport for instance) other Chinese bank ATMs work too, but the presence of familiar logos on the screen does not guarantee that foreign cards will work. There are many usable ATMs in banks, shopping malls, and hotels around the city center.

4 Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in upscale restaurants and top-end hotels, and in large tourist shops, but always check before attempting to make a purchase that your foreign card is accepted. The commonly accepted cards are MasterCard, Visa, JCB, Diners Club, and American Express.

5 Traveler's Checks

Some hotel foreign exchange counters will no longer exchange checks, and will send you to the Bank of China. All popular foreign brands are accepted, but occasionally cashiers nervous of responsibility will reject those that look unfamiliar. Keep the proof of purchase slips and a record of the serial numbers in case of loss or theft.

6 Post

It takes as little as four days to send airmail and postcards overseas. Visitors can send mail by standard or registered post, while EMS (Express Mail Service) is a reliable way to send packages and documents abroad and within the country. Most post offices are open seven days a week.

7 Telephones

International and long-distance phone calls can be made from most hotels and card telephones. It is usually necessary to ask receptionists or operators to place the calls. In cheaper hotels you may be asked to first pay a deposit. Most public phones require an IC (integrated circuit) card, sold in shops and kiosks wherever the letters "IC" are seen.

8 Calling Beijing

To call China from abroad, dial your international access code, China's country code 86, then 10 for Beijing, followed by the local number.

9 Mobiles

Visitors with mobile phones from almost anywhere except North America and Japan can use the Chinese system (Americans can only use the Chinese system if they have an unlocked tri- or quad-band phone). Just buy a local pre-paid SIM card from any phone shop. If you do not have a phone compatible with the Chinese system, the cheapest option is to buy one, not rent.

10 Internet Cafés

Personal computer ownership is limited in China, so internet cafés *(wangba)* are common. You can also get online at many China Telecom offices. Many foreign media sites are blocked by the government.

Left **Young Beijingers on Wangfujing** Right **Monk at the Lama Temple**

TOP 10 Etiquette

1 Greeting People

Shaking hands is commonplace and certainly considered the norm with foreign visitors. The usual Chinese greeting is "Ni hao," which means "How are you?" or "Nimen hao" in its plural form, to which you reply "Ni hao" or "Nimen hao."

2 Personal Questions

Although unfailingly polite, Chinese people will not blanch at asking you how much you earn, how old you are, or whether you are married. Such questions are seen as nothing more than taking a friendly interest in a new acquaintance.

3 Exchanging Business Cards

When proffering business cards, the Chinese do so using the fingertips of both hands, and receive cards in the same manner. For businessmen a good supply of cards is essential, preferably with English on one side and Chinese on the reverse.

4 Face

Although reserved in manner and expression, the Chinese also harbor strong feelings of personal pride and respect. The maintenance of pride and avoidance of shame is a concept known as "face." Loss of face creates great discomfort and major embarrassment for Chinese, so although you may occasionally become frustrated by delays or the incompetence of hotel staff, it is never a good idea to embarrass anybody in public.

5 Places of Worship

Buddhist, Daoist, and Confucian temples are relaxed about visitors wandering about, but you should be considerate toward worshipers and the resident monks, and refrain from sticking cameras in their faces. You need to dress more respectfully for mosques – avoid wearing shorts or short skirts, and cover your upper arms.

6 Staring

The Chinese habit of staring can be a little annoying. This sort of behavior is normally encountered in smaller towns and rural areas, but you also come across it in Beijing, since the city attracts a lot of migrant workers and peasant tourists. However, the intent is never hostile.

7 Tipping

The Chinese do not tip. so neither should you, and that goes for guides, bell boys, taxi drivers, and anyone else. In China the price you agree for the service is the one you pay, although some restaurants in larger hotels now routinely add a service charge. Away from hotels and tourist areas waitresses will pursue you down the street to return the change they think you've forgotten.

8 Begging

China's imbalanced economic progress and huge population of rural poor have resulted in large numbers of beggars, especially in Beijing and other big cities. Foreign visitors are associated with wealth and naturally attract lots of attention, and groups of children are often sent by their parents to extract money. The best strategy is to ignore them and walk away.

9 Political Discussion

Avoid political discussion altogether. Most Chinese are very uncomfortable hearing criticism of their leadership or nation. At the same time, they are quite happy to have a go at other countries, often to the point where you might feel provoked enough to respond. Don't. Far better to just change the subject.

10 Chinese Names

The Chinese will usually state their last name first, followed by the given name. For example, Zhang Yimou, in Chinese would be Mr. Yimou Zhang using the Western style.

Above **Rush hour**

TOP 10 Things to Avoid

1 Students of English

People on the street will sometimes strike up conversation in order, so they will tell you, to practice their English. However, caution is necessary as increasingly these approaches are lead-ins to scams. These so-called "language students" will often suggest entering a nearby café or bar at which you will naturally offer to buy them a drink. The students take generous advantage of your offer and then depart leaving you with a wildly inflated bill for thousands of *renminbi*. Of course, the bar owner is in on the deal.

2 Queuing

The Chinese don't do queues. They prefer to push and shove. Anyone who politely waits their turn at the ticket office is likely to be stood there all day.

3 Taking Offense at Spitting

Although there is always a crack-down in the run-up to major international events, such as the 2008 Olympics, and despite the best attempts of public educators, spitting remains a fact of Chinese life on the streets, buses and trains. It is not just an old man thing either; it is not uncommon to observe a pretty young woman break off mid-conversation to loudly expel a gob of saliva.

4 Rush Hour

Beijing's traffic is horrendous and if you aren't careful you could spend half your visit sat in a taxi, gridlocked in a sea of other vehicles. Rush hour seems to last nearly all day, but the roads are noticeably worse on week days before 10am and between around 5pm and 8pm. You should avoid traveling at these times if at all possible.

5 Art Students

Around Wangfujing Dajie, Liulichang, Tian'an Men Square and the Forbidden City, be wary of "art students" who in the guise of fund-raising will pressure you to visit an exhibition where you can buy amateur and hugely overpriced art.

6 Guides

At many of Beijing's sights, but particularly at the Forbidden Palace and Temple of Heaven, so-called guides wait around the ticket offices to offer their services. Decline. They usually know little more than the bare facts, which are often recited with a dubious propagandist slant.

7 Visiting Sights on National Holidays

The biggest tourists in China are the Chinese themselves. On public holidays out-of-towners swarm into Beijing for a spot of sightseeing. It becomes impossible to move in the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, or in any of the parks.

8 Sweet and Sour Chicken

China's is one of the world's great cuisines. Chinese food is astonishing in its variety, and there is nowhere better to experience this than Beijing. The city boasts restaurants specializing in most, if not all, the country's many regional cuisines. Ordering the few Cantonese-originating dishes that have come to represent Chinese cooking to the rest of the world would really be a wasted opportunity.

9 Public Toilets

In general, public toilets are hole-in-the-ground types and are usually extremely malodorous. You will need to bring your own tissue paper as it is seldom available. Take advantage of the facilities in top-end hotels and restaurants.

10 Taking a Taxi without the Right Change

Beijing taxi drivers hardly ever seem to carry any change, so make sure you always have a good stash of ¥5, ¥10, and ¥20 notes to hand.

Left **Exotic food at the Night Market** Right **Western-style restaurant**

Top 10 Dining in Beijing

1 Restaurant areas

Beijing boasts literally thousands, if not tens of thousands, of restaurants. The best areas to wander in order to see what's on offer are around Hou Hai *(see pp20–21)* and along Ghost Street *(see p87)* for Chinese cuisine. For the widest choice of international restaurants, try the streets on the south side of Ri Tan Park *(see p85)* and those on the north and west sides of the Workers' Stadium *(see p86)* in the diplomatic and entertainment district of Sanlitun.

2 Strange foods

Should you so wish then, yes, you can find the likes of dog, snake, sea slug, scorpions, and penises from a variety of animals on the menus of Beijing restaurants. However, none of these are particularly common dishes and you are unlikely to find them on the table in front of you without specifically seeking them out.

3 Chinese menus

Many restaurants have menus in Chinese only. In which case, it is perfectly acceptable to look around at what people on other tables are eating and just point to what you fancy.

4 International cuisine

Beijing is a modern, international city and many of its international restaurants are truly world class, notably those described on pages 60–61. If you should tire of Chinese cuisine then without too much trouble you can find restaurants here that will do a great burger or an authentic spaghetti bolognaise.

5 Eating with chopsticks

Chinese restaurants set their tables with chopsticks, not knives and forks. If you have never eaten with chopsticks before then it's wise to get in a little practice before your visit to Beijing, otherwise you could find yourself on an unexpected crash diet.

6 Décor

Many Beijing restaurants appear very basic, even scruffy, with Formica tables, cheap furnishings, and plastic tableware. Chinese tend not to care about things like the aesthetics, the ambience, and the service. Instead what they care about is the quality of the food. Little else matters.

7 Street food

Chinese street food is plentiful, varied, and usually delicious *(see p57)*. The best place to try it is at one of the two street-food markets off Wangfujing Dajie *(see p71)*. There are also lots of street-food vendors in the Hou Hai area *(see pp20–21)*.

8 Meal times

The Chinese tend to eat early. Lunch can be served as early as 11am and many restaurants will stop serving at 2pm. Dinner typically starts at around 5pm, with many restaurant kitchens closed by 9:30pm.

9 Late-night eating

Many of the hotel restaurants stay open late, as do a cluster of places around the west gate of the Workers' Stadium, notably the excellent Bellagio *(see p58)*. A lot of bars serve decent food until the early hours, including The Tree *(see p63)*, while most of the restaurants along Ghost Street *(see p87)* remain open 24 hours daily.

10 Dining with Chinese

As a guest of Chinese hosts it is polite to sample all of the dishes on the table, although you should leave something on the plate at the end of the meal. A clean plate indicates you are still hungry. Drinking is an important part of Chinese entertaining, but do not pour your own drink – it shows a lack of protocol. The most common expression for toasting is "Gan bei", meaning "dry the glass", or "bottoms up."

Left **Dazhalan street market** Right **Low-cost clothing at the Silk Market**

TOP 10 Shopping Tips

1 Opening hours

Most shops and markets are open from around 9am daily and do not close until around 9pm, or later.

2 Haggling

The Chinese haggle even in shops with fixed prices and it pays for you to do the same. Haggling at markets is essential as traders will start by quoting you a price that can be 10 times or more beyond what is fair. Your first offer must always be a fraction of what they ask. For example, a trader who starts by demanding ¥150 for a jacket at the Silk Market will probably be prepared to let it go for as little as ¥20; offer ¥10 and then walk away, and listen as the price plummets.

3 Credit cards

Credit cards are only accepted at branches of international stores and at luxury boutiques, and department stores. Always check just which cards are accepted and carry enough cash to cover in case your plastic is rejected.

4 Fakes

Beijing is awash with fakes, from counterfeit Rolex watches to careful copies of North Face jackets. Some of these are extremely well done, with counterfeiters even going so far to replicate the internal workings of watches. Of course, it is all illegal. The piracy is likely to be stamped out, or at least sent underground, by the time the 2008 Olympic Games come around. Until then, a shopping session at the Silk Market *(see p88)* remains high on most tourists' list.

5 Bargains

Counterfeit goods and fakes aside, there are few real bargains to be had in Beijing. No matter how good your haggling skills, no market trader ever sells at a loss, or even at anything like cost price (despite what they tell you). The antiques are anything but old and even the Mao memorabilia is made specifically for the tourist trade. The simple rule is, buy something because you like it, not because you have been told that it is worth a great deal.

6 DVDs and CDs

As well as fake clothing, Beijing is awash with pirate DVDs and CDs, sold openly from specialist stores. Movies appear on disc even before they've been premiered. Some of the less recent releases are highly professional with all the added extras. However, some disks just won't play at all. It's a bit of a gamble and, again, the flow of product is likely to dry up in the run up to the 2008 Olympics.

7 Tailoring

If you have the time and the inclination, one of the most satisfying shopping experiences is to buy some cloth and have a local tailor make up clothes to your own design or specifications. Present them with an example and they can make exact copies of your favorite shirts or trousers. They can even work from pictures in a magazine. Yaxiu Market *(see p88)* in Sanlitun has the greatest number of tailors, plus plenty of stalls selling cloth.

8 Refunds

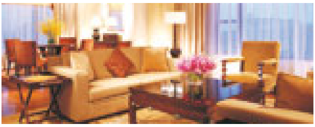
Make sure that you really want what you're buying because there is no such thing as a refund in China.

9 Shopping areas

Beijing's main shopping street is Wangfujing Dajie *(see p68)*. Other good places include the Dazhalan and Liulichang *(see p73)* areas south of Tian'an Men Square, and on and off Sanlitun Bei Lu.

10 Electronics

Don't mix up Beijing with Hong Kong: there are no bargain electronics here. Most hardware is imported and so costs significantly more than in your home country. You can get cheap Chinese-made equivalents but these are unreliable and there is no warranty.



Left **Peninsula Palace Hotel** Right **Commune at the Great Wall**

TOP 10 Accommodation Tips

1 Area options

Distances in Beijing are vast and roads are perpetually choked with traffic, so if you don't want to spend half your visit sat in the back of a succession of taxis, be careful when choosing your hotel. Unless business requires you to be elsewhere, then aim to stay as close to the Forbidden City as possible. In a choice of east side versus west, favor the former, for its better restaurants and shopping.

2 Hotel standards

For international standards of comfort and service, stick to five-star hotels managed by familiar Western chains, or the Singapore- and Hong Kong-based luxury companies. Chinese-run operations do their best to emulate foreign hotels but typically the only way in which they come close is in the pricing.

3 Star system

The Chinese star system of grading hotels is meaningless, since no star is ever lost once it has been given, despite sometimes dramatic deterioration.

4 Something different

Other than a couple of pricey options (Red Capital Residence and the Commune at the Wall), the boutique hotel has yet to catch on in China. However, what Beijing does have is lots of courtyard hotels. These are conversions of traditional *siheyuan* (courtyard houses) in old *hutong* (alley) areas of the city. These vary in price and degree of comforts from budget to expensive luxury options.

5 Booking and bargaining

For most foreign-run hotels the best price will be found on the hotel's own website. However, websites for Chinese hotels will always quote a wildly inflated rack rate. In China, the real price of a hotel room is what the customer is willing to pay. Locals will always ask for a discount and you should too – you can do this by email if you are booking in advance from overseas.

6 Payment

Outside of the major international hotels you may find that only Chinese versions of well-known credit cards are accepted, so make a point of asking when you check in. Hotel foreign exchange facilities are becoming less reliable and holders of traveler's checks in particular, may be sent to a bank. In more modest hotels always be prepared to settle your bill in *renminbi*. Also, be aware that it is normal for most Chinese-run hotels to ask for payment of your room in advance.

7 Hidden extras

Service charges of between five and fifteen percent are frequently added to the final bill, so clarify this at the start. Minibar contents are as overpriced in China as they are anywhere else, but international telephone calls made from your room are subject to only a modest surcharge.

8 Seasonal demand

The busiest travel periods are during the week-long national holidays that occur around May 1 and October 1, and during the Chinese New Year *(see p34)*. If you are planning to be in China at any of these times then you should make any hotel (and domestic travel) reservations well in advance.

9 Traveling with kids

Most hotels allow under-12s to stay with their parents free of charge. Most will also add an extra bed for an older child for a nominal (and negotiable) fee.

10 Tipping

Traditionally there is no tipping in China and hotel staff may even try to return money that is left for them.

Above **Grand Hyatt Beijing**

Price Categories

For a standard, double room per night (with breakfast if included), taxes and extra charges.

¥	under ¥200
¥¥	¥200–¥400
¥¥¥	¥400–¥800
¥¥¥¥	¥800–¥1400
¥¥¥¥¥	over ¥1400

TOP 10 Luxury and Boutique Hotels

1 China World Hotel

The most luxurious hotel in Beijing, and often the choice of visiting heads of state. It's in the heart of the Central Business District (CBD), above a swish shopping mall and it has arguably the best restaurant in town in Aria *(see p60)*. ✎ *1 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map H4 • 6505 2266 • Subway: Guomao • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.shangri-la.com*

2 Commune at the Great Wall

Eleven modern villas by 11 Asian architects dot a green valley within sight of the Great Wall. Facilities include DVD players, an indoor pool, and a private cinema. Managed by Kempinski. ✎ *Badaling, 30 miles (45 km) NW of Beijing • 8118 1888 • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.commune.com.cn*

3 Grand Hyatt Beijing

Above the Oriental Plaza mall on Wangfujing, no other luxury hotel is better located; few are as well equipped. Restaurants here are among the city's finest and the pool is a knock-out. ✎ *1 Dong Chang'an Jie • Map N5 • 8518 1234 • Subway: Wangfujing • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.beijing.grand.hyatt.com*

4 Kerry Center Hotel

The youngest of Shangri-La's Beijing stable combines the group's high service standards with bright, modern room design. The Kerry is also home to the city's hottest cocktail bar and extensive health facilities. ✎ *1 Guanghua Lu • Map H4 • 6561 8833 • Subway: Guomao • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.shangri-la.com*

5 Peninsula Palace Hotel

Luxurious and recently renovated rooms have large plasma TVs; marble bathrooms also have a small screen. Two terrific restaurants (Huang Ting and Jing), a luxury mall, excellent service, and a central location, make this one of the city's best choices. ✎ *8 Jinyu Hutong • Map N4 • 8516 2888 • Subway: Dengshikou • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.peninsula.com*

6 Red Capital Residence

Beijing's quirkiest hotel has just five rooms, each furnished with period antiques and decorated according to a different theme. You can choose from the "Chairman's Suite" or one of the "Concubines' Private Courtyards". ✎ *66 Dong Si Liutiao • Map F2 • 8403 5308 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.redcapitalclub.com.cn*

7 Shangri-La Beijing

Recently renovated to a high standard, and with the addition of a brand new tower and excellent restaurants and bars. One drawback is that the hotel is out in the far west of the city, near the Summer Palace. ✎ *29 Zizhu Yuan Lu • 6841 2211 • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.shangri-la.com*

8 St. Regis Beijing

Small but beautifully decorated rooms with free access to an on-call butler. There are excellent restaurants, as well as an exclusive health club and outdoor putting green. ✎ *21 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map G4 • 6460 6688 • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.stregis.com/beijing*

9 The Ascott Beijing

Acclaimed top-end living for international executives in the heart of the CBD, also providing 1–3 bedroom apartments. Service is exceptional and apartments are elegantly furnished and fully equipped. ✎ *108B Jianguo Lu • Map H4 • 6567 8100 • Subway: Guomao • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.theascottbeijing.com*

10 Beijing Hotel

Beijing's oldest hotel reopened in summer 2006 after a massive refit as part of the famed Raffles group. Excellent location at the bottom of Wangfujing, a short walk from Tian'an Men Square. ✎ 33 *Dong Chang'an Jie • Map M5 • 6513 7766 • Subway: Wangfujing • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.chinabeijinghotel.com.cn*

Unless otherwise stated, all hotels listed above accept credit cards, have en-suite bathrooms, and air-conditioning

Left **Kempinski Hotel** Right **Wangfujing Grand**

TOP 10 Business and High-end Hotels

1 Beijing Hilton

A recent refurb has transformed the Hilton into a stylish hotel with large rooms sporting designer flourishes and huge bathrooms. Good value option close to the embassies, shopping, and nightlife centers of Nuren Jie and Sanlitun. ➘ *1 Dong Fang Lu • Map H1 • 5865 5000 • ¥¥¥¥ • www.beijing.hilton.com*

2 Crowne Plaza

Comfortable rooms with tasteful decoration give onto a nine-story atrium. Reasonable value, and within walking distance of Wangfujing and the Forbidden City. ➘ *48 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N3 • 6513 3388 • Subway: Wangfujing • ¥¥¥¥ • www.crowneplaza.beijing.ichotelsgroup.com*

3 Park Plaza Hotel

The stylish new Park Plaza is a peaceful oasis in a fast developing precinct. Rooms feature designer touches and the hotel is convenient for Wangfujing Dajie and the Forbidden City. ➘ *97 Jinbao Jie • Map N3 • 8522 1999 • Subway: Wangfujing • ¥¥¥¥ • www.parkplaza.com/beijingcn*

4 Renaissance Hotel

Four-star business hotel close by the International Exhibition Center, also providing access to myriad dining and shopping options on Xiaoyun Lu and the adjacent Nuren Jie. Rooms are large in size, luxurious but subtle. ➘ 36 *Xiaoyun Lu • 6468 9999 • ¥¥¥¥ • www.marriott.com*

5 Howard Johnson Paragon

Comfortable and close to Beijing Railway Station, and just a short taxi ride to Wangfujing and Tian'an Men Square. Rooms, though not large, are recently renovated, and international standards ensure a quality of service superior to that of most other nearby hotels. ➘ *18A Jianguo Men Nei Dajie • Map F4 • 6526 6688 • Subway: Beijing Zhan • ¥¥¥¥ • www.hojochina.com*

6 Traders Hotel Beijing

In the heart of the CBD, and offering every possible business facility, plus plenty of comforts, including an excellent Southeast Asian buffet. Next to the China World Shopping Mall and its subway station. ➘ *1 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map H4 • 6505 2277 • Subway: Guomao • ¥¥¥¥ • www.shangri-la.com*

7 Great Wall Sheraton

Although one of the biggest hotels in Beijing, rooms are surprisingly small. Still, service is pleasant, and the Canton restaurant on the 21st floor gets good reviews. ➘ *10 Dong San Huan Bei Lu • Map H1 • 6590 5566 • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.sheraton.com/beijingcn*

8 Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong

Targeted at high-end business travelers, this Japanese-run hotel is convenient to the CBD, and offers several worthwhile restaurants and bars. Rooms are small, but feature tasteful decoration. ➘ *26 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map G4 • 5877 5555 • Subway: Jianguo Men • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.newotani.co.jp*

9 Kempinski Hotel

Near the new Nuren Jie embassy district, the Kempinski offers superb service and access to Western conveniences in the attached Lufthansa Center, including bars, restaurants, and high-end shopping. ➘ *50 Liangma Qiao Lu • Map H1 • 6465 3388 • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.kempinski-beijing.com*

10 Wangfujing Grand

Good value in one of Beijing's priciest and most central hotel districts, with views of the Forbidden City from the west-facing rooms. There's adequate service thanks to Hong Kong management and all new fixtures thanks to a recent renovation. ➘ *57 Wangfujing Dajie • Map N4 • 6522 1188 • Subway: Wangfujing • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.wangfujinghotel.com*

Unless otherwise stated, all hotels listed above accept credit cards, have en-suite bathrooms, and air-conditioning

Above **Red House Hotel**

Price Categories

For a standard, double room per night (with breakfast if included), taxes and extra charges.

¥	under ¥200
¥¥	¥200–¥400
¥¥¥	¥400–¥800
¥¥¥¥	¥800–¥1400
¥¥¥¥¥	over ¥1400

TOP 10 Mid-range Hotels

1 Fang Yuan Hotel

Two blocks north of the famed Night Market, the location is hard to beat. It's a fairly modest place but looking quite spruce after a 2005 refit. Staff are well used to dealing with foreigners and there's a travel advisory service, booking center, bicycle rental, and internet. ⊘ *36 Dengshikou Xijie • Map M3 • 6525 6331 • Subway: Dengshikou • ¥¥ • www.cbw.com/hotel/fangyuan*

2 Hade Men Hotel

Among the older hotels in Beijing, but renovated to a standard above other Chinese-run options in this range. Rooms are comfortable, if a bit gaudy, with nice views from the upper floors. It's round the corner from the railway station. ⊘ *2A Chongwen Men Wai Dajie • Map N6 • 6711 2244 • Subway: Chongwen Men • ¥¥ • www.hademenhotel.com*

3 Red House Hotel

Dorms, hotel rooms, and apartments with kitchens for short- or long-term rent. Rooms feature dark wooden floors and faux-antique furnishings. There's a popular football bar on the premises, and it's a short walk to more bars in Sanlitun. ⊘ *10 Taiping Zhuang Chunxiu Lu • Map G2 • 6416 7810 • Subway: Dong Zhi Men • ¥¥ • www.redhouse.com.cn*

4 Beijing Bullion Kaiyue Hotel

Excellent, modern three-star on a narrow lane just a few minutes' walk from Wangfujing. All rooms have laptop portals, and satellite TV, and represent good value for money. ⊘ *31 Ganyu Hutong, off Dong Si Nan Dajie • Map N3 • 8511 0388 • Subway: Deng Shi Kou • ¥¥¥*

5 City Hotel Beijing

Sound mid-range option within walking distance of Sanlitun's bars, restaurants, and shops. Rooms are clean and comfortable enough, if a little dated. Staff speak some English. ⊘ *4 Gongren Tiyuchang Dong Lu • Map H2 • 6500 7799 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥¥¥ • www.cityhotel.com.cn*

6 Comfort Inn & Suites

Rooms are tastefully decorated, with desks, comfortable sofas, and plush new duvets. It caters more for business people on lengthy stays, so service can be found wanting. ⊘ *6 Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu • Map G2 • 8523 5522 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥¥¥ • www.choicehotels.com*

7 Cui Ming Zhuang Hotel

Recently renovated and cheap given the location. Rooms are simple but clean, and surprisingly large. Staff are more pleasant than is usual for a Chinese hotel. ⊘ *1 Nan Heyan Dajie • Map M4 • 6513 6622 • Subway: Tian'an Men Dong • ¥¥¥ • www.cuimingzhuanghotel.com.cn*

8 Huafeng Hotel

Blander than when it was the Grand Hôtel des Wagons-Lits, but it offers good value for money in the pleasant Legation Quarter, and is walking distance from central Tian'an Men Square and Wangfujing Street. ⊘ *5 Qian Men Dong Dajie • Map M6 • 6524 7311 • Subway: Qian Men • ¥¥¥*

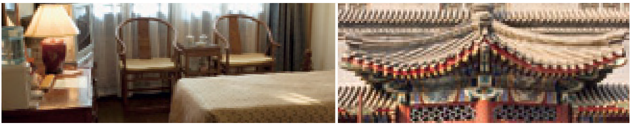
9 Scitech Hotel

A good-value option for both shoppers and hedonists, the four-star Scitech abuts a large department store and popular nightclub Banana. Standard rooms are a bit on the small side but are otherwise comfortable. ⊘ *22 Jianguo Men Wai Dajie • Map G4 • 6512 3388 • Subway: Jianguo Men • ¥¥¥ • www.scitechgroup.com*

10 Qian Men Jianguo Hotel

The hotel itself isn't much to look at but rooms are decent. The Li Yun Theater, with nightly shows of Beijing Opera, is on the hotel grounds. The Temple of Heaven is a short walk away. ⊘ *175 Yong'an Lu • Map D6 • 6301 6688 • Subway: Heping Men • ¥¥¥/¥¥¥¥*

In Beijing's mid-range hotels credit cards are often not accepted and air-conditioning is not always standard. Check when booking



Left **Bamboo Garden Hotel** Right **Lu Song Yuan Hotel**

TOP 10 Courtyard Hotels

1 Far East International Youth Hostel

Buried down in the *hutongs* southwest of Tian'an Men Square, this is possibly the city's cheapest old courtyard accommodations *(see p117)*. *✎ 90 Tieshu Xie Jie • Map D5 • 5195 8561 • Subway: Heping Men • ¥ • www.hihostels.com*

2 Sweet Garden Hostel

Peaceful, family-run hostel in a converted courtyard residence close to Dong Si Shi Tiao subway offers simple single, double, and 4–6 bed dorm rooms. Staff speak little English but arrange bike hire, ticket booking services, and even airport pick-up. *✎ 19 Dong Si Qi Tiao • Map G2 • 6405 1538 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥*

3 Friendship Guesthouse

Built in 1875 and once home to Chiang Kai Shek (you can stay in his suite) and, later, the Yugoslav Embassy. Today, it still has a bit of a Socialist feel but the courtyard setting is pleasant, and there's a Japanese restaurant on site. *✎ 7 Houyuan Ensi Hutong • Map E1 • 6403 1114 • Subway: Anding Men • ¥¥*

4 Bamboo Garden Hotel

Close to the lakes, this is the oldest of Beijing's traditional hotels, with the largest and most elaborate courtyards, plus rockeries and covered pathways. *✎ 24 Xiao Shi Qiao Hutong • Map E1 • 5852 0088 • Subway: Gulou Dajie • ¥¥¥ • www.bbgh.com.cn*

5 Hao Yuan Guesthouse

Smallest, most obscure, and possibly most pleasant courtyard hotel in Beijing. Rooms in the tree-shaded rear courtyard are exquisite. Walking distance to Wangfujing. *✎ 53 Shijia Hutong, Dongdan Bei Dajie • Map N3 • 6512 5557 • Subway: Dongdan • ¥¥¥ • www.haoyuanhotel.com*

6 Hejing Fu Hotel

One of the largest courtyard hotels in town, Hejing Fu occupies three courtyards in total, each dotted with intricately carved statuary. Suites are luxuriously appointed with traditional trappings that reflect the house's imperial pedigree. *✎ 7 Zhangzi Zhong Lu, Ping'an Dadao • Map N1 • 6401 7744 • Subway: Anding Men • ¥¥¥*

7 Lu Song Yuan Hotel

The details are similar to those in other courtyard hotels, but here they add up to a more comfortable atmosphere. Rooms range from cheap youth hostel-style facilities right up to suites. There's also a charming teahouse and well-stocked bookshelves. *✎ 22 Banchang Hutong, Kuan Jie • Map N1 • 6404 0436 • Subway: Anding Men • ¥¥¥ • www.the-silk-road.com*

8 Qomolangma Hotel

A few minutes' walk from the Drum and Bell Towers and located in a former Buddhist temple, this courtyard hotel is full of character. Simple, cosy rooms have Ming-style furniture. *✎ 149 Gulou Xi Dajie • Map E1 • 6401 8822 • Subway: Gulou Dajie • ¥¥¥*

9 La Suite Interdite

Exclusive, privately-owned courtyard residence that includes two rustic but charming self-contained units (not for separate hire) offering a slice of imperial living five minutes' walk from the Forbidden City. *✎ 2 Bei Chizi Er Tiao • Map M3 • Subway: Tian'an Men Dong • ¥¥¥¥¥ • suite_interdite@yahoo.com*

10 Red Capital Residence

Beijing's most uniquely louche hotel, in which those with a suitably fat wallet can live out fantasies of Old Peking, also happens to be a converted courtyard residence *(see p113)*. *✎ 9 Dong Si Liutiao • 8403 5308 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥¥¥¥¥ • www.redcapitalclub.com.cn*

In courtyard hotels credit cards are often not accepted and air-conditioning is not always standard. Check when booking

Above **Poachers Inn**

Price Categories

For a standard, double room per night (with breakfast if included), taxes and extra charges.

¥	under ¥200
¥¥	¥200–¥400
¥¥¥	¥400–¥800
¥¥¥¥	¥800–¥1400
¥¥¥¥¥	over ¥1400

TOP 10 Budget Hotels

1 Beijing City Youth Hostel

Good value and very convenient for those with early morning trains from Beijing Zhan. Twin rooms and dorms are relatively new and clean, and there are cooking facilities and a 24-hour shop. ⊘ *1 Beijing Zhan Qian Jie • Map F4 • 6525 8066 • Subway: Beijing Zhan • ¥*

2 Leo Hostel

Excellent location south of Tian'an Men Square, in among old lanes. Rooms range from 12-bed dorms to doubles; facilities range from bicycle hire to a second-hand book exchange. ⊘ *52 Guang Ju Yuan, Dazhalan Xijie • Map L6 • 6303 1595 • Subway: Qian Men • ¥ • www.leohostel.com*

3 Downtown Backpackers

Good value in the heart of one of Beijing's most vibrant *hutongs*. It's also minutes from the lakes, and myriad restaurants and bars. Offers clean single rooms, doubles with attached bath, and 6–8 bed dorms, plus bike hire and laundry. ⊘ *85 Nan Luo Gu Xiang • Map E2 • 8400 2429 • Subway: Anding Men • ¥*

4 Far East International Youth Hostel

The city's most charming YHA hostel, with dorms and private rooms in hotel and courtyard settings. The area was an imperial-era red-light district and remains lively. ⊘ *90 Tieshu Xie Jie • Map K6 • 5195 8561 • Subway: Heping Men • ¥ • www.hihostels.com*

5 Feiying International Youth Hostel

Among the cheapest of Beijing's HI hostels and the most convenient for transport. Private twins and dorms are pristine, and management are helpful. Facilities include a recently opened bar and restaurant. ⊘ *10 Xuanwu Men Xi Dajie • Map C4 • 6317 1116 • Subway: Changchun Jie • ¥ • www.hihostels.com*

6 Saga International Youth Hostel

Featuring spotless doubles, triples, and dorm rooms, a communal kitchen and café, and a roof-top patio. Helpful English-speaking management organize ticket bookings and tours. ⊘ *9 Shijia Hutong • Map N3 • 6527 2773 • Subway: Dongdan • ¥*

7 Dexinju Binguan

Chinese-managed hotel in a *hutong* close to Wangfujing. Staff speak little English, but rooms are bright and airy with clean bathrooms. Those on upper floors offer pleasant views. ⊘ *78 Dong Si Liu Tiao • Map N2 • 6404 2944 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥¥*

8 Xindadu Youth Hostel

One of the newest of the YHA hostels. Dorm beds (200 in total) are the only option, but rooms are pristine. Convenient for access to Beijing West Railway Station. ⊘ *Chegongzhuang Dajie 21 • Map A4 • 6831 9988 ext. 185 • Subway: Chegong Zhuang • ¥¥*

9 Poachers Inn

In the middle of the Sanlitun bar district, this is the hostel if you like your accommodations loud and lively. Rooms are simple and share bathrooms, but facilities are clean. Breakfast and laundry are free and there's a raucous bar attached. To find the hostel, walk up the east side of Yaxiu Market and just keep going. ⊘ *Off Sanlitun Bei Lu • Map H2 • 6417 2597 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥¥ • www.poachers.com.cn*

10 Zhaolong International Youth Hostel

A quiet option despite the proximity to Sanlitun bar district. Dorms are decently tidy and guests have access to a self-catering dining room, games room, and bike rentals. The front door is locked at 1am nightly. ⊘ *2 Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu • Map H2 • 6597 2299 • Subway: Dong Si Shi Tiao • ¥¥ • www.greatdragonhotel.com.cn*

➔ *Budget hotels will most likely not accept credit cards and not have air-conditioning*

Phrase Book

The Chinese language belongs to the Sino-Tibetan family of languages and uses characters which are ideographic – a symbol is used to represent an idea or an object. Mandarin Chinese, known as Putonghua in mainland China, is fairly straightforward as each character is monosyllabic. Traditionally, Chinese is written in vertical columns from top right to bottom left, however the Western style is widely used. There are several romanization systems; the Pinyin system used here is the official system in mainland China. This phrase book gives the English word or phrase, followed by the Chinese script, then the Pinyin for pronunciation.

Guidelines for Pronunciation

Pronounce vowels as in these English words:

a	as in "father"
e	as in "lurch"
i	as in "see"
o	as in "solid"
u	as in "pooh"
ü	as the French u or German ü (place your lips to say oo and try to say ee)

Most of the consonants are pronounced as in English. As a rough guide, pronounce the following consonants as in these English words:

c	as ts in "hats"
q	as ch in "cheat"
x	as sh in "sheet"
z	as ds in "heads"
zh	as j in "Joe"

Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language with four tones, represented in Pinyin by one of the following marks ˉ ˊ ˇ ˋ above each vowel – the symbol shows whether the tone is flat, rising, falling and rising, or falling. The Chinese characters do not convey this information: tones are learnt when the character is learnt. Teaching tones is beyond the scope of this small phrase book, but a language course book with a cassette or CD will help those who wish to take the language further.

Dialects

There are many Chinese dialects in use. It is hard to guess exactly how many, but they can be roughly classified into one of seven large groups (Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka, Hui etc.), each group containing a large number of more minor dialects. Although all these dialects are quite different – Cantonese uses six tones instead of four – Mandarin or Putonghua, which is mainly based on the Beijing dialect, is the official language. Despite these differences all Chinese people are more or less able to use the same formal written language so they can understand each other's writing, if not each other's speech.

In an Emergency

Help!	请帮忙！	*Qing bangmang*
Stop!	停住！	*Ting zhu*
Call a doctor!	叫医生！	*Jiao yisheng*
Call an ambulance!	叫救护车！	*Jiao jiuhuche*
Call the police!	叫警察！	*Jiao jiingcha*
Fire!	火！	*Huo*
Where is the hospital/police station?	医院/警察分局在哪里？	*Yiyuan/jingcha fenju zai nali ?*

Communication Essentials

Hello	你好	*Nihao*
Goodbye	再见	*Zaijian*
Yes/no	是／不是	*shi/bushi*
… not …	不是	*bushi*
I'm from…	我是 … 人	*Wo shi … ren*
I understand	我明白	*Wo mingbai*
I don't know	我不知道	*Wo bu zhidao*
Thank you	谢谢你	*Xiexie ni*
Thank you very much	多谢	*Duo xie*
Thanks (casual)	谢谢	*Xiexie*
You're welcome	不用谢	*Bu yong xie*
No, thank you	不，谢谢你	*Bu, xiexie ni*
Please (offering)	请	*Qing*
Please (asking)	请问	*Qing wen*
I don't understand	我不明白	*Wo Bu mingbai*
Sorry/Excuse me!	抱歉／对不起	*Baoqian/ duibuqi*
Could you help me please? (not emergency)	你能帮助我吗？	*Ni neng bang zhu wo ma?*

Useful Phrases

My name is ….	我叫 …	*Wo jiao …*
Goodbye	再见	*Zaijian*
What is (this)?	（这）是什么？	*(zhe) shi shenme?*
Could I possibly have ...? (very polite)	能不能请你给我 ...？	*Neng buneng qing ni gei wo ...*
Is there … here?	这儿有 ... 吗？	*Zhe'r you ... ma?*
Where can I get ...?	我在哪里可以得到 ...？	*Wo zai na li keyi de dao ...?*
How much is it?	它要多少钱？	*Ta yao duoshao qian?*
What time is …?	... 什么时间？	*... shenme shijian*
Cheers! (toast)	干杯	*Ganbei*
Where is the restroom/toilet?	卫生间／洗手间在哪里？	*Weishengjian/ Xishoujian zai nali?*

Signs

open	开	*kai*
closed	关	*guan*
entrance	入口	*rukou*
exit	出口	*chukou*
danger	危险	*weixian*
emergency exit	安全门	*anquanmen*
information	信息	*xinxi*
restroom/toilet	卫生间／	*Weishengjian/*
(men)	洗手间	*Xishoujian*
(women)	（男士）（女士）	*(nanshi) (nüshi)*
men	男士	*nanshi*
women	女士	*nüshi*

Money

bank	银行	*yinhang*
cash	现金	*xianjin*
credit card	信用卡	*xinyongka*
currency exchange office	外汇兑换处	*waihui duihuanchu*
dollars	美元	*meiyuan*
pounds	英镑	*yingbang*
yuan	元	*yuan*

Keeping in Touch

Where is a telephone?	电话在哪里？	*Dianhua zai nali?*
May I use your phone?	我可以用你的电话吗？	*Wo keyi yong nide dianhua ma?*
mobile phone	手机	*shouji*
sim card	卡	*sim ka*
Hello, this is ...	你好，我是 …	*Nihao, wo shi*
airmail	航空	*hangkong*
e-mail	电子邮件	*dianzi youjian*
fax	传真	*chuanzhen*
internet	互联网	*hulianwang*
postcard	明信片	*mingxinpian*
post office	邮局	*youju*
stamp	邮票	*youpiao*
telephone card	电话卡	*dianhua ka*

Shopping

Where can I buy ...?	我可以在哪里买到 ...？	*Wo keyi zai nali maidao ...?*
How much does this cost?	这要多少钱？	*Zhe yao duoshao qian?*
Too much!	太贵了！	*Tai gui le!*
Do you have ?	你有 … 吗？	*Ni you … ma?*
May I try this on?	我可以试穿吗？	*Wo keyi shi chuan ma?*
Please show me that.	请给我看看那个。	*Qing gei wo kankan na ge.*

Sightseeing

Where is ...?	… 在哪里？	*... zai nali?*
How do I get to ...?	我怎么到 ...？	*Wo zenme dao ...?*
Is it far?	远不远？	*Yuan bu yuan?*
bridge	桥	*qiao*
city	城市	*chengshi*
city center	市中心	*shi zhongxin*
gardens	花园	*huayuan*
mountain	山	*shan*
museum	博物馆	*bowuguan*
palace	宫殿	*gongdian*
park	公园	*gongyuan*
port	港口	*gangkou*
river	江，河	*jiang, he*
ruins	废墟	*feixu*
shopping area	购物区	*gouwu qu*
shrine	神殿	*shendian*
street	街	*jie*
temple	寺庙	*si/miao*
town	镇	*zhen*
village	村	*cun*
zoo	动物园	*dongwuyuan*
north	北	*bei*
south	南	*nan*
east	东	*dong*
west	西	*xi*
left/right	左 / 右	*zuo/you*
straight ahead	一直向前	*yizhi xiangqian*

Getting Around

airport	机场	*jichang*
bicycle	自行车	*zixingche*
I want to rent a bicycle	我想租一辆自行车。	*Wo xiang zu yiliang zixingche.*
ordinary bus	公共汽车	*gonggong qiche*
express bus	特快公共汽车	*tekuai gonggong qiche*
minibus	面包车	*mianbaoche*
main bus station	公共汽车总站	*gonggong qiche zong zhan*
Which bus goes to …?	哪一路公共汽车到 … 去？	*Nayilu gonggong qiche dao ... qu?*
Please tell me where to get off?	请告诉我在哪里下车？	*Qing gaosu wo zai nali xia che.*
car	小汽车	*xiaoqiche*
ferry	渡船	*duchuan*
baggage room	行李室	*xingli shi*
one-way ticket	单程票	*dancheng piao*
return ticket	往返票	*wangfan piao*
taxi	出租车	*chuzuche*
ticket	票	*piao*
ticket office	售票处	*shoupiao chu*
timetable	时刻表	*shikebiao*

Accommodations

air-conditioning	空调	*kongtiao*
bath	洗澡	*xizao*
check-out	退房	*tui fang*
deposit	定金	*dingjin*
double bed	双人床	*shuangren chuang*
hair drier	吹风机	*chuifeng ji*
room	房间	*fangjian*
economy room	经济房	*jingji fang*
key	钥匙	*yaoshi*
front desk	前台	*qiantai*
single/twin room	单人 / 双人房	*danren/ shuangren fang*
single beds	单人床	*danren chuang*
shower	淋浴	*linyu*
standard room	标准房间	*biaozhun fangjian*
deluxe suite	豪华套房	*haohua taofang*

Eating Out

May I see the menu?	请给我看看菜单。	*Qing gei wo kankan caidan*
Is there a set menu?	有没有套餐？	*You meiyou taocan?*
I'd like ….	我想要 ...	*Wo xiang yao*
May I have one of those?	请给我这个。	*Qing gei wo zhege*
I am a vegetarian	我是素食者。	*Wo shi sushizhe.*

Waiter/waitress!	服务员！	*Fuwuyuan!*
May I have a fork/knife/spoon	请给我一把叉／刀／汤匙。	*Qing gei wo yiba cha/dao/tangshi*
May we have the check please.	请把帐单开给我们。	*Qing ba zhangdan kaigei women*
breakfast	早餐	*zaocan*
buffet	自助餐	*zizhucan*
chopsticks	筷子	*kuaizi*
dinner	晚餐	*wancan*
to drink	喝	*he*
to eat	吃	*chi*
food	食品	*shipin*
full (stomach)	饱	*bao*
hot/cold	热／冷	*re/leng*
hungry	饿	*e*
lunch	午餐	*wucan*
set menu	套餐	*taocan*
spicy	酸辣	*suan la*
hot (spicy)	辣	*la*
sweet	甜	*tian*
mild	淡	*dan*
Western food	西餐	*xi can*
restaurant	餐馆	*canguan*
restaurant (upscale)	饭店	*fandian*

Food

apple	苹果	*pingguo*
bacon	咸肉	*xianrou*
bamboo shoots	笋	*sun*
beancurd	豆腐	*doufu*
bean sprouts	豆芽	*dou ya*
beans	豆	*dou*
beef	牛肉	*niurou*
beer	啤酒	*pijiu*
bread	面包	*mianbao*
butter	黄油	*huangyou*
chicken	鸡	*ji*
crab	蟹	*xie*
duck	鸭	*ya*
eel	鳗	*man*
egg	蛋	*dan*
eggplant	茄子	*qiezi*
fermented soybean paste	酱	*jiang*
fish	鱼	*yu*
fried egg	炒蛋	*chao dan*
fried tofu	油豆腐	*you doufu*
fruit	水果	*shuiguo*
fruit juice	果汁	*guo zhi*
ginger	姜	*jiang*
ice cream	冰淇淋	*bingqilin*
meat	肉	*rou*
melon	瓜	*gua*
noodles	面	*mian*
egg noodles	鸡蛋面	*jidan mian*
wheat flour noodles	面粉面	*mianfen mian*
rice flour noodles	米粉面	*mifen mian*
omelet	煎蛋饼	*jiandanbing*
onion	洋葱	*yangcong*
peach	桃子	*taozi*
pepper	胡椒粉，辣椒	*hujiaofen, lajiao*
pickles	泡菜	*paocai*
pork	猪肉	*zhurou*
potato	土豆	*tudou*
rice	米饭	*mifan*
rice crackers	爆米花饼干	*baomihua bing'gan*
rice wine	米酒	*mi jiu*
salad	色拉	*sela*
salmon	鲑鱼，大马哈鱼	*guiyu, damahayu*
salt	盐	*yan*
scallion	韭葱	*jiucong*
seaweed	海带	*haidai*
shrimp	虾	*xia*
soup	汤	*tang*
soy sauce	酱油	*jiangyou*
squid	鱿鱼	*youyu*
steak	牛排	*niupai*
sugar	糖	*tang*
vegetables	蔬菜	*shucai*
yoghurt	酸奶	*suannai*

Drinks

beer	啤酒	*pijiu*
black tea	红茶	*hong cha*
coffee (hot)	（热）咖啡	*(re) kafei*
green tea	绿茶	*lü cha*
iced coffee	冰咖啡	*bing kafei*
milk	牛奶	*niunai*
mineral water	矿泉水	*kuang quanshui*
orange juice	橙汁	*cheng zhi*
wine	葡萄酒	*putaojiu*

Numbers

0	零	*ling*
1	一	*yi*
2	二	*er*
3	三	*san*
4	四	*si*
5	五	*wu*
6	六	*liu*
7	七	*qi*
8	八	*ba*
9	九	*jiu*
10	十	*shi*
11	十一	*shiyi*
12	十二	*shier*
20	二十	*ershi*
21	二十一	*ershi yi*
22	二十二	*ershi er*
30	三十	*sanshi*
40	四十	*sishi*
100	一百	*yi bai*
101	一百零一	*yi bai ling yi*
200	二百	*er bai*

Time

Monday	星期一	*xingqiyi*
Tuesday	星期二	*xingqi'er*
Wednesday	星期三	*xingqisan*
Thursday	星期四	*xingqisi*
Friday	星期五	*xingqiwu*
Saturday	星期六	*xingqiliu*
Sunday	星期天	*xingqitian*
today	今天	*jintian*
yesterday	昨天	*zuotian*
tomorrow	明天	*mingtian*

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Acknowledgments

The Author
Andrew Humphreys is a travel writer and editor who recently spent six months exploring Beijing.

Produced by
BRAZIL STREET
Editorial Nancy Pellegrini, Andrew Humphreys
Design Gadi Farfour
Main Photographer Chen Chao
Photography co-ordinator and Factchecking Amanda Mengpo Li
Proofreader Ferdie McDonald

AT DORLING KINDERSLEY
Series Publisher Douglas Amrine
Publisher Managers Vivien Antwi, Jane Ewart
Senior Editor Hugh Thompson
Cartography co-ordinator Casper Morris
Picture Research Rachel Barber, Ellen Root
DTP Designer Natasha Lu
Production Linda Dare

Additional Photography
Demetrio Carrasco, Eddie Gerald, Ian O'Leary, Colin Sinclair, Linda Whitwam

Picture Credits
Dorling Kindersley would like to thank all the many establishments covered in this book for their assistance and kind permission for the porducers to take photographs.
Placement Key: t–top; tl–top left; tr–top right; tc–top center; tcl–top center left; c–center; cr–center right; b–bottom; bl–bottom left; bottom right.
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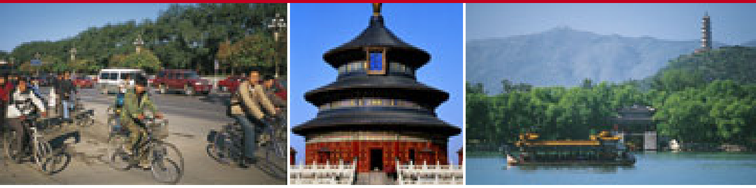

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Printed in Singapore

ISBN 978-0-7566-2474-3
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